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T R E A T I S E  
U P O N T H E  
F O R M A T I O N  
O F T H E  
H U M A N S P E C I E S, &c.





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T R E A T I S E  
UPON THE  
F O R M A T I O N  
OF THE  
H U M A N S P E C I E S ;

The DISORDERS incident to PROCREA-  
TION in Men and Women ;

The EVILS arising from the ABUSE of the  
GENITAL FACULTIES.

WITH

The most approved and efficacious METHODS of  
CURE, illustrated with a Variety of CASES  
and EXAMPLES.

By JAMES FLEMING,  
Hospital-Surgeon and Man-Midwife.

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## INTRODUCTION.

IF the editor of the following performance thought any apology necessary for laying it before the public, he would enter upon his defence, by acknowledging his crime ; which is neither more nor less, than that of *exploding ignorance, and revealing the knowledge of human nature* : but he flatters himself, that we live in too liberal an age, to discountenance any attempts to communicate real instruction ; and surely none is more important than that of being acquainted with *our own formation, and the source of our animation*. It is that which should first occupy our thoughts, ere we endeavoured to improve our understandings by foreign or remote studies ; for it is almost impossible to arrive at any degree of excellence in the various branches of science, without having an intimate acquaintance with that  
b being,

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being, who is thus busied in the pursuit ; and yet many there are, who have attempted to reach the utmost pinnacle of learning, without having bestowed one thought upon the nature of their own existence.

IF curiosity, or the allurements of knowledge, no way interfered in this design, a still more cogent reason should urge us to the task ; a reason whose object is the basis of all happiness, all ease, all contentment, all tranquillity ; and this is nothing less than our HEALTH, without which riches, science, beauty, are idle, insignificant, and useless. We have no relish for what we cannot enjoy ; and if bodily health is wanting, nothing in this sublunary state can dispense a moment's real satisfaction.

To this end, then, it is necessary, that we should consider the nature of our formation ; by what means we came into this world ; how far our creation might have injured the health of our parents ;  
the

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the proper use of those generative powers with which we are endued, to add our mite to the increase of the general stock of individuals, and the proper methods of curing such disorders as are incidental to this pursuit, or the still more fatal complaints arising from the abuse of these faculties.

IN order to render this work of general utility, and to remove the disgust of a dry and tedious study, I have selected what has been said by the most elegant as well as learned writers of antiquity upon these heads ; nor have I omitted aught that appeared to me pertinent or illustrating offered by the modern literati ; so that this may be considered as an epitome of every thing essential that has been written upon these subjects, digested and methodized, with observations and remarks, in the compass of a pocket volume.

It may, perhaps, be objected by some over-scrupulous critics, that the nature of

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the plan must necessarily create a variety of amorous ideas, which, for the benefit of the rising generation, had better be suppressed than illustrated.

To this I answer, That the design of this work is not to excite lascivious thoughts, but to consider ourselves philosophically as we are ; to point out the danger of too much indulgence even in natural passions, and the still more direful consequences of addicting ourselves to unnatural ones. If it were necessary, I could, in my defence, quote the sacred writers, and the fathers of the church, who have treated upon these very subjects, even in living languages ; and I shall endeavour to suppress any indecent expressions, as far as the nature of the performance will allow : wherefore, I hope, instead of incurring the censure, to meet the approbation of sensible and virtuous men.

THIS work would have been incomplete, had I not been somewhat particular in displaying the filthiness and danger  
of

of a crime, that I am afraid the youth of the present age are but too guilty of; a crime that is pregnant with manifold evils, not only to the culprit, but which he transmits to posterity; a crime that is destructive of our very being, and annihilates creation. A mirror, to view these direful ills, could not be held in too strong a light; the picture cannot be too highly coloured, that every one whom it portrays may shudder at his own resemblance.

It is a melancholy reflection, that even the softer sex, the lovely part of the creation, are not exempt from the imputation. Nay, if we may credit the satyrists of antiquity, and particularly Juvenal, they complicated the crime:

*Lenonum ancillas posita, Laufella cerona  
Provocat, et tollit pendentis primæ coxæ,  
Ipsa Medullina frictum crisantis adorat.  
Palmam inter dominas virtus natalibus  
æquat.*

Such

## xiv INTRODUCTION.

Such are his words. How many Lauffellas and Medullinas are still in being, the number of antiquated maids and misses of three-score, more evidently prove than any other calculation to be framed.

THIS vice, then, cannot be too severely combated, too publicly exposed; and if those who are addicted to it do not, after perusing the following sheets, blush, tremble, and repent, they are devoid of shame, sense, and reflection: they are irreclaimable, and unworthy of attention. But many, I hope, there are, who have been unwarily prompted to give way to so shameful a practice, who need only see it represented in a just light, to shudder at their guilt; and these penitents are deserving of regard. For such have I pointed out a proper cure for those disorders, which they may have brought upon themselves by their former folly. But let not those who have long habituated themselves to this vice, flatter themselves with a speedy, or any relief, without they previously

viously eradicate every thought tending to this unclean desire.

THE disorders solely incident to the female sex, form another part of this work, in which the most approved and efficacious remedies are pointed out; whereby every lady may, in these cases, see her own situation, and, by following such prescriptions as are there laid down, be restored to her pristine health, without being obliged to reveal her complaint to any one of the faculty. It would be needless, in this place, to point out the many inconveniencies that have flowed from the sex's ignorance of the real nature of their disorders; and we too well know there are numbers, who, through misjudged modesty, will not let a man approach them even in labour, when in the greatest danger: if so, how many may have been lost for want of proper instruction in cases though not so violent, yet equally fatal, when neglected.

THIS

## xvi INTRODUCTION.

THIS part, therefore, will, I imagine, sufficiently recommend itself to the fair sex, without my expatiating any farther upon its utility.

I HAVE also set apart a section for the venereal disorder, in which I have traced its origin, nature, symptoms, and method of communication ; with receipts for such stages of it, as patients may rely upon themselves for the cure : to which I have subjoined a preventative remedy, that will doubtless be efficacious in most common cases.

UPON the whole, this work, though small, may be considered as an useful and instructive treatise upon physiology and medicine ; and will, the editor flatters himself, claim a precedence before many voluminous productions, equally prolix and unentertaining.

S E C.

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## S E C T I O N I.

### *Of the formation of the human species.*

**T**HE knowledge of ourselves is, doubtless, the most essential and rational inquiry of human beings, and, therefore, every attempt to unfold the secrets of nature in our formation, must meet with the approbation of all those who are desirous of having the veil of ignorance drawn aside, that providence and reason may appear in all their splendor, to the eye of every beholder.

To compass this effectually, it will be necessary to consult the structure of males and females in their genital parts, and the cause of that proneness to copulation, which is the original source of generation, and consequently the perpetuation of the human species.

MAN, the noblest and most rational animal in the creation, is formed of so delicate, so nice a mechanism, that any the smallest interruption to the most minute operation of the corporeal system, in some degree discomposes the whole frame; and as perfection is no where to be met with in this sublunary sphere, so in

B

man

man there is constantly some, though, perhaps, small impediment to complete health. Cold or heat, moisture or drought, must alternately affect the circulation of his blood, the digestive powers of his stomach, &c. &c. and as these are more or less diverted, the body is impaired. The great art of the *materia medica* is to restore these, when disturbed, to the nearest point of perfection they can attain.

IN this treatise, I must, however, confine myself to the revolutions of the corporeal frame, so far as they are influenced by the act of copulation. To launch into a detail of all the various affections of the human body, with their causes and consequences, would lead me far beyond my present design, which is; as I have specified in the title page, To investigate the formation of the human species; the disorders incident to procreation in men and women; the evils arising from the abuse of the genital faculties, and set forth the most approved methods of cure.

IN entering upon the first part of my plan, which is the formation of the human species, I must consider the structure and design of those parts in each sex, which are immediately instrumental in this operation.

THE principal organ of generation in man is placed obvious to the sight, and sensible to the touch; and, by reason of its pendent state, disposed for the act of coition, is called by the  
 Latins,

Latins, *penis*; the most decent translation of which, in English, is the *yard*, though it vulgarly bears another name. When erect, its shape is long, though its length is very different in various men; in some it does not project above three inches from the belly, in others four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, and even ten inches; but the latter size is very scarce. It is roundish, and the upper side rather flattish, consisting of skin, tendons, veins, arteries, and sinews. Its situation is over the os pubis, being destined for two very different operations, namely, the conducting of the seed into the matrix of the woman in the act of copulation, and to void a superabundance of urine from the bladder. To this end, it internally consists of two nervous bodies, the septem, the urethra, the glans, the muscles, and the vessels. The two nervous bodies are so called, from their being surrounded with a thick, white, nervous membrane; yet their interior substance is spongy, consisting chiefly of nervous fibres, arteries, and veins, interspersed. The cause of its erection is its plenitude of spirituous agitated blood; and consequently a defect of erection arises from a deficiency of this supply. The contents of the septem is white, sinewy, and nervous, being destined for the support of the urethra and side ligaments. The urethra, which is the common channel for the seed and urine, is in substance loose and soft, thick and sinewy. It hath three holes, the two smaller of which receive the seed from the *vesiculæ seminales*; the center one, and largest, is the aperture for the

B 2

urine,

urine, being seated at the neck of the bladder. The glans are at the extremity of the yard, and are susceptible of the nicest sensations, being covered by nothing but a thin membrane. The prepuce, or covering, which the Jews circumcise, in some men covers almost the whole nut of the yard, and in others very little of it; and this generally depends upon the state of the frænum, which in many is broke or cut. The muscles, which are four in number, consist of fleshy fibres: the use of the shortest and thickest of these fibres, is to extend the yard, and put it into a state of erection; wherefore they derive their name of *erectors*. The office of the two longer and thinner, is to stretch the lower part of the urethra in the time of evacuation, and are therefore stiled *accelerators*. The vessels consist of veins, arteries, and nerves, some visible, and some invisible.

THE testicles, or reservoirs of seed, come next under consideration. They are situated at the bottom of the abdomen, behind the yard. The internal skin, which covers them, is called the scrotum, and the internal the membrana carnosæ. The epididymides are joined to the testicles, from whence arise the vasa deferentia, or ejaculatoria, which, upon approaching the neck of the bladder, deposit the semen in the seminal vessels, which resemble bunches of grapes; and hence is the seed thrown into the urethra in the act of coition. The prostate glands, which are situated near to them, and unite the neck of the bladder, are about the  
size

size of a common walnut. Hence issues a saline glutinous humour, which preserves the urethra from the bad effects of the acrimony of the semen, as well as that of the urine. There are also two vessels, which conduct the blood to the testes, where it is elaborated into semen; and these are called *arteria spermaticæ*; and the two spermatic veins carry off the superabundant blood from the testes.

HAVING thus set forth the parts of generation in men, those of women come next under our consideration.

THE lips of the orifice, seated between the thighs, are called the *labiæ*; and the adjacent parts, covered with hair at the age of puberty, are called *pudenda*. Such is the external appearance; the internal consists of the *nymphæ*, which appear upon opening the *labiæ*, and are composed of soft spongy flesh, resembling, in form and colour, a cock's comb, receiving, in the act of generation, the man's yard between, having, in their center, the *clitoris*, which is the seat of bliss in women, and which I shall presently describe. The little buttons, in the shape of berries, which close the orifice of the neck of the bladder, and, by their swelling, increase the titillation and exquisite sense in the act of copulation, also serve to prevent any involuntary discharge of urine, which the *nymphæ* give vent to. We now come to the *clitoris*, which greatly resembles a man's penis, and by its erection and friction in contact with

the yard, the woman receives the highest delight. This part is replete with a spongy and black matter within, like unto the side ligaments of the yard, which it so much resembles, exciting lust, and communicating delight in the act of generation, this being the great incentive to venery in females; and the amorous passion is therefore generally proportioned to the size of their clitoris. Its uncommon and extraordinary protuberance, I shall have occasion to mention in another place, and to assign the most obvious causes for this phenomenon. It rises from the os pubis, having its head covered with a very thin membrane, where there is an orifice; but it is not perforated. The urinary passage is seated over the neck of the womb, and under the clitoris. This passage is secured from cold, or any other violent attacks, in the act of copulation, by the largest and uppermost of the four fleshy buttons, which is seated before, and closes it. The lips of the womb now make their appearance. The neck or channel is seated between the four buttons, and the inner bone of the womb, which receives the yard like a sword-sheath. It is so constructed, that it may be easily and agreeably extended in the act of copulation, being of a spongy nature; and there being in this concavity various foliages, or circular plaits, made by wrinkled tunics, it resembles a blown rose, in those who have still their virginity; but it loses this appearance by frequent coition, becoming smooth, and at length grisly and hard. The *hymen*, or clustum virginale, closes the neck of the womb, which

which is occasionally supplied with a large quantity of spirits from different veins and arteries that there concenter, in order to be dilated ; and they retain the yard with additional vigour, being capable of receiving in general one of eight inches in length. Upon the first entrance of the pudendum, there are two small arteries, which, being pressed by the penis in the act of coition, furnish a humour that communicates an additional sensation of pleasure to the woman.

THESE parts may be considered as so many instruments and channels for conveying the seed into the womb, which I shall now more particularly consider. It is situated in the lower parts of the hypogastrion, adjoining to its neck, and is seated between the bladder and the streight-gut, whereby it is prevented from being displaced, though it is capable of contraction or dilatation, as occasions require. Its form is circular, resembling in some measure a gourd, lessening and growing more acute towards the extremity, united by its own ligaments, and its neck by its proper substance, and certain membranes that fasten it to the sharebone and the os sacrum. Its size is various in different women, and more particularly in those who have borne children from those who have not. The preparatory vessels are the same in number and origin with women as with men ; their size and manner of insertion constituting all the difference. They are shorter in women than in men, the testicles of a

woman being seated within the belly, and requiring a shorter passage to communicate their contents ; but, on the other hand, have more intricate foliages than in man, that the liquor may be properly elaborated. These preparatory vessels are not united as in men, before they arrive at the stones ; but are divided into two branches, the greater of which only passes to the stones, and the lesser to the fecundated egg, this being properly conception. The immediate use of these vessels is to convey the blood to the testicles, part whereof is employed in their nutrition, and the production of those little bladders in every respect resembling eggs, through which the *vasa præparentiæ* run, and are obliterated in them. Each testicle in a woman contains about twenty eggs, one of which being impregnated by the most spirituous parts of the male-seed in the act of copulation, descends through the oviducts into the womb, where it is nourished, and becomes a human being. The figure of these *ova* is not perfectly round, but somewhat flat on the sides, and their lower parts are oval ; but in their upper part, where they have communication with the blood vessels, they are covered with a single membrane, in order to facilitate the conveyance of a proper degree of heat.

SUCH then are the general structures of the parts of generation in the two sexes. There are doubtless many uncommon forms in these organs, which may at once astonish, and in some degree puzzle the greatest philosophers  
to

to account for them; but these excursions of nature are not so frequent in the males as in the females, which I shall in the sequel endeavour to explain, as well as the too frequent cause husbands have to complain, that their wives do not bring with them their virginity to the marriage-bed, even though they never had before any commerce with the male sex. When it is considered, that a maidenhead, or virginity, consists in nothing more than that membranous substance called the *hymen*, resembling the bud of a rose half blown, and which is destroyed by the first act of copulation, or the insertion of any inflexible substance, we may easily conclude, that many females have got their own maidenheads long before they knew a man. The hymen, or cluſtrum virginale, being a thin membrane interwoven with fleshy fibres, and having an orifice in the center, through which the menses flow, and wherein the top of a little finger may be easily at first inserted, which, being repeated, and the fore finger afterwards supplying its place, these practices, within a short time, destroy the zone of chastity, as it is emphatically called. In some countries marriage is void, unless the bride, upon her wedding-night, gives proper testimonials of her having been endowed with it at the time of her marriage. This evidence consists of the effusion of blood upon the rupture of the hymenean membrane. Some females consider the narrowness of their vagina as a sufficient proof of their maidenhead; but age, disposition of body, and other cir-

cumstances, either constitute or destroy it. In general, it may, indeed, be allowed, that women who have frequently indulged and gratified their amorous desires by copulation, are not so streight as those who have had but little commerce this way ; but this is no positive proof of virginity, as artifice may impose a substitute for the reality, and astringent medicines supply the place of continence.

As the original intent of copulation was, doubtless, more to propagate our species, than to gratify any carnal appetite, we should, to attain the desired end, pursue the necessary means: when, therefore, our design is to impregnate our wives, we should previously dispose them to receive our caresses with the most unfeigned joy. We should invigorate them with nutritious food, and an agreeable quantity of generous wine ; and if their desires seem still more backward than ours, we should excite them by tender and amorous dalliance ; for all our effects will prove ineffectual, unless they meet our embraces with equal delight, and we are both critically and instantaneously happy: therefore when we find the parts in women cold and inanimate, the clitoris in a flimsy state, and no expressions of exquisite sensation upon our embrace, it were better to refrain from consummation, as, in all probability, it will be the loss of the discharge of valuable seed, without the profit of reaping the least harvest from its being sown ; but when delight sparkles in her eye, when every thrust seems to commu-  
nicate

nicate new joy, when you meet the *clitoris* in its greatest extension, and most perfect erection, delectably throbbing with the extatic friction, in contact with the glans of the penis, then you cannot too much exert yourself, till, by pushing onward to the goal of felicity, inarticulate, though expressive, ejaculations, plainly indicate the tumult of her soul, in the amazing sensations of a deluge of happiness; or, as the poet so finely expresses it,

*Bodies mingling, sexes blending,  
Who shall most be lost contending.—  
Then hold her off, and gaze—then with new rage  
Clasp her, till your conscious limbs presage  
Torrents of joy, which all their banks o'erflow,  
So lost, so blest, as you but then can know.*

THE first emanations of reciprocal bliss being ended, it requires prudence and consideration to know when it is proper to withdraw from the field of delight, lest you should, by too early a retreat, lose the victory you have gained in favour of generation. To speak without a figure, by unsheathing your yard too soon, you make way for the air to penetrate the womb, and the cold, so untimely communicated, may be of the most fatal consequence: therefore you should remain in the same posture, and, as far as possible, in the same union, till such time as you may conclude, that the matrix is closed, which naturally takes place soon after it has received the active principle,

in order to form a conception ; when you may safely withdraw, and leave the lady to her repose.

THESE cautions being taken, and the female ovum having been impregnated, by the male semen, at the crisis of copulation, and then made its descent into the womb, nothing is now necessary, but its being gradually and regularly nourished, till it becomes a foetus ; and this is GENERATION.

SECTION

## SECTION II.

*Of venereal excesses.*

THE greatest physician of antiquity, who has transmitted his name to us with the highest renown, and who will be read and admired whilst letters and science retain their influence, has described the ills that are occasioned by the abuse of amorous pleasures, under the title of *Tabes Dorsalis*. Hippocrates says, that this disorder arises from some defect in the spinal marrow. Young married people, and those of a lascivious disposition, are particularly afflicted with it. They have no fever, and, though they eat well, they fall away, and become consumptive. They feel as if a sting or stich descended from the head, along the spinal marrow. Every time they go to stool, or have occasion to urine, they shed a great quantity of thin seminal liquor. They are incapable of procreation, and frequently dream of the act of coition. Walking particularly in rugged paths puts them out of breath, and weakens them, occasioning a heaviness in the head, and noise in the ears, which are succeeded by a violent fever that terminates their days. Such are the words of Hippocrates, which correspond with what Aetius says upon the same subject. Young people have the air and appearance of old age. They become pale, effeminate, benumbed, lazy, stupid, and even imbecile :

imbecile : their bodies are curved, and their legs are unable to perform their functions ; they have an utter distaste, and, for every thing, are totally incapacitated : many become paralytic. The stomach is disordered, all the body is weakened, paleness, bodily decay, and emaciation succeed. These opinions are supported by Turpius, that celebrated burgomaster and physician of Amsterdam : these are his words : “ The spinal marrow does  
 “ not only waste, but the body and mind both  
 “ equally languish, and the man perishes a  
 “ miserable victim. Samuel Vesputius was  
 “ seized with a flux of humour extremely  
 “ sharp, which immediately affected the hind  
 “ part of the head, and the nape of the neck,  
 “ from whence it communicated to the spinal  
 “ marrow, the loins, the buttocks, and the  
 “ articulation of the thigh, which made this  
 “ unfortunate man suffer such excruciating  
 “ pain, that his countenance was entirely dis-  
 “ torted, and he was seized with a slow fever,  
 “ which by degrees consumed him, but not so  
 “ fast as he desired ; and he was in such a si-  
 “ tuation, that he frequently invoked death  
 “ before he snatched him from his misery.” To these opinions, we shall add that of the celebrated Gabius, in his Pathological and Medicinal Institutes : “ An immediate emission  
 “ of seed is not only prejudicial, by reason of  
 “ the loss of a most useful humour, but like-  
 “ wise by a repetition of the convulsive mo-  
 “ tion by which it is discharged ; for the  
 “ highest pleasure is followed by an universal  
 “ resolution

“ resolution of the natural powers, which can-  
 “ not frequently take place without exerva-  
 “ tion. Besides, the more the strainers of the  
 “ body are drained, the more humour they  
 “ draw to them from the other parts; and the  
 “ juices being thus conveyed to the genitals,  
 “ the other parts are impoverished. Hence it  
 “ is, that from excessive venery arise lassitude,  
 “ weakness, numbness, a feeble gait, head  
 “ aches, convulsions of all the senses, but espe-  
 “ cially of the sight, and dulness of hearing,  
 “ an idiot look, a feverish circulation, exsicca-  
 “ tion, leanness, a consumption of the lungs  
 “ and back, and effeminacy: these evils are  
 “ increased, and become incurable, by reason  
 “ of a perpetual itch for pleasure, which the  
 “ mind at last contracts, as well as the body;  
 “ and from whence it follows, that they have  
 “ obscene dreams in sleep, and that the prone  
 “ parts upon every the slightest occasion have  
 “ a tendency to stiffen, and the quantity of  
 “ replaced semen, however small, becomes a  
 “ burthen and a stimulus; which semen will  
 “ be discharged from the relaxed cells, by the  
 “ very slightest efforts, and even without any  
 “ effort at all. Thus it is, that these excesses  
 “ brings such perdition upon the flower of our  
 “ youth.”

SUCH then are the sentiments of these great  
 men at different periods, upon the consequence  
 of too violent seminal emissions; and to illu-  
 strate what has been premised, it will be ne-  
 cessary to pay some attention to the importance  
 of

of this liquor, with respect to the well-being of the whole human machine.

IT may with truth be said, that our bodies are in a continual state of decay: to repair this waste, nature has furnished us with nutrition, by the assistance of aliments; but whenever this supply is wanting, our frame must necessarily decay much faster, and more quickly sink into a state of extreme debility and mortal weakness. Too copious evacuations are the most frequent causes of this defect; for our bodies are so constructed, that for these aliments to acquire the degree of preparation necessary for the reparation, a certain quantity of humours must be ready prepared, and constantly at hand. If this condition is wanting, the digestion and concoction of the aliments are imperfect, and the more imperfect in proportion, as the deficient humour happens to be of a more elaborate kind, or of greater importance in the animal œconomy.

THE seminal liquor has so great an influence upon the corporeal powers, and upon perfect digestion, which repairs them, that physicians of all ages have been unanimously of opinion, that the loss of an ounce of this humour would weaken more than that of forty ounces of blood. An idea may be formed of its importance, by observing the effects it produces as soon as it begins to be formed; the voice, the physiognomy, the features of the face change; the beard grows, and the body  
often

often takes another appearance, because the muscles acquire a thickness and firmness, which form a sensible difference between the body of an adult person, and that of a youth not yet arrived at the age of puberty. These changes are prevented by destroying the organ which serves to secrete the liquor that produces it; and Boerhaave observed, that the amputation of the testicles, at the age of verility, made the beard fall, and effeminated the voice.

THERE are humours, such as perspiration, which quit the body the moment they are separated from the circulating vessels. There are others, such as urine, which after this separation are retained for a certain time in the reservoirs destined for that purpose, and from whence they do not issue till they are collected in a sufficient quantity, to excite an irritation upon these reservoirs, which mechanically causes them to empty. There are a third sort, which are secreted and retained in the manner of the second, in reservoirs, not with the design of being completely evacuated, but to acquire in these reservoirs a degree of perfection which qualifies them for fresh functions, when they return into the mass of humours. Such, amongst others, is the genital liquor. Being separated in the testicles, it passes from this in a pretty long canal into the *vesiculæ seminales*, is continually resorbed by the vessels adapted for that purpose, and are gradually restored to the mass of humours. Many evidences might be produced to demonstrate this fact: amongst others,

others, for instance, the secretion of the seminal liquor in a healthy man, is constantly made in the testicles: it repairs to the reservoirs, the limits of which are very confined, and cannot, perhaps, contain all that is secreted in a day: there are, nevertheless, some continent men, who have no evacuations of this kind for many months: in these it must, therefore, return into the vessels of circulation, which is greatly facilitated by the structure of the organs, which assists in the secretion of this humour, in conveying it into the proper channel, and in preserving it. The veins are there much more considerable than the arteries, and in a proportion not to be found elsewhere. And supposing, according to some modern opinions, \* that no other than the lymphatic veins absorb, the genital parts are equally suited to a considerable absorption, as the vessels of this kind are there very numerous.

THOUGH Galen was unacquainted with the mechanism of the semen, he was not ignorant that the humours were enriched by its being retained; for he says every part is full of it with those who refrain from any commerce with women; but those who frequently give way to this intercourse, are quite deficient of this humour. He then enters into a curious disquisition, in order to ascertain how small a quantity of this liquor can communicate infinite strength to the body; and concludes,

\* Vide, Dr. Munro junior, *De Vasis Lymphaticis*. Dr. Hunter, the Medical Commentaries, &c.

that

that it has excellent virtue, and may, therefore, very speedily convey some of its power to all parts of the corporeal machine; and that as small causes often produce great effects, he thinks it is no way surprizing, that the testicles should furnish liquor proper to circulate fresh vigour over all the body, as the brain produces many motions and sensations, and the heart communicates the power of beating to the arteries. To this may be properly added what the great professor Haller says upon the same subject. His words are: “ The semen is kept  
 “ in the *vesiculæ seminales* until the man makes  
 “ use of it, or nocturnal emissions deprive him  
 “ of it. During this period, the quantity that  
 “ is then confined excites him to acts of ve-  
 “ nery; but the greater part of this seed,  
 “ which is the most volatile and odoriferous,  
 “ as well as the strongest, is absorbed into the  
 “ blood, and then produces upon its return  
 “ very surprizing changes: it makes the beard,  
 “ hair, and nails grow; it changes the voice  
 “ and manners; for age does not produce  
 “ those changes in animals; it is the *semen*  
 “ only that performs these operations, as we  
 “ find eunuchs are not susceptible of them.”

THIS liquor is a stimulus or provocative, which irritates the parts it touches, as its powerful scent, and the manifest irritation it communicates to the organs of generation, plainly evince. These sharp particles being then incessantly absorbed and reunited with the humours, they create a gentle, though constant  
 stimulus

stimulus in the vessels, which thereby more forcibly contract, and more easily act upon the fluids: hence circulation is quickened, nutrition performed with greater regularity, and every other animal function becomes more perfect.

THIS being the case, eunuchs must necessarily be in many respects defective in their animal œconomy; but if they are incapable of the advantages that are derived from the absorption of this liquor, they are, on the other hand, not deprived of that precious part of the blood which is allotted for *semen*; and of course they are not liable to those changes which are occasioned by the prepared seminal liquor; nor are they exposed to those disorders which arise from the privation of this humour unprepared. When the first is not separated, the animal machine will be deficient in those succours which it derives from the prepared semen, without being liable to the alterations which depend thereupon; but this can in no respect weaken; if, on the one hand, it gains nothing, so, on the other, it loses nothing: the body of an eunuch may, therefore, in this respect be considered in a state of childhood.

To what has been here said upon this subject, the observations of the celebrated professor Skmeider of Leipzig, will be no improper supplement.

“ WHILST

“ WHILST I have been some times medi-  
 “ tating on various natural subjects, says this  
 “ professor, such as the human body, the  
 “ structure of it, its motion, its humours, and  
 “ the like, I imagined that, amongst other  
 “ things, the genital liquor well deserved to  
 “ be carefully examined; and by inquiring  
 “ into the nature, the constitutive parts, the  
 “ vessels, receptacles, and secretion of it, I  
 “ have recollected some things concerning its  
 “ motion; not that which is ejaculatory, and  
 “ excited in coition, or by another filthy ti-  
 “ tillation; nor yet its own private and in-  
 “ testine motion, which, that it must have,  
 “ we are pretty sure of, from the spirituous  
 “ and sulphureous particles it abounds with:  
 “ but the motion I mean is a progressive one,  
 “ from its receptacles back again into the mass  
 “ of the blood; and several circumstances  
 “ have induced me to believe and assert, that  
 “ there really is such a motion, till such time  
 “ as the contrary shall be plainly and evident-  
 “ ly demonstrated to me. To get some light in  
 “ this matter, I perused various authors, both  
 “ ancient and moderen, philological as well as  
 “ anatomical, but to little or no purpose; for  
 “ I have been scarce able to find any thing in  
 “ them concerning this progressive or circu-  
 “ latory motion, except in Hippocrates, in his  
 “ book *de Genitura*; by whose words we may  
 “ conclude he was of this opinion, as he says,  
 “ *As soon as there is seed made, the flesh and out-*  
 “ *ward skin become more porous, and the little*  
 “ *veins are more opened than they were before;*  
 “ but

“ but those who are yet in their childhood, or else  
 “ eunuchs, hav., for that reason, no hair either  
 “ on the pubes or chin, and are all over smooth,  
 “ because no passage being yet made for the seed,  
 “ the outward superficies are no where rarefied;  
 “ for the passage to the seed, as I said a little  
 “ before, is stopped up.

“ FROM these words it is evident, that Hip-  
 “ pocrates has made mention of this progress  
 “ of the seed into the blood and body; whilst  
 “ he asserts, that by this same seed the flesh  
 “ and outward skin are rarefied, that the beard  
 “ and hair on the pubes might come through,  
 “ because then there is a passage made for  
 “ the seed, which, before the years of pu-  
 “ berty, and in eunuchs, is yet stopped up.  
 “ Rolfinch just hints at it, and at the same  
 “ time denies the circulation of the seed, as  
 “ will appear from his words: *The ostentatious*  
 “ *name of circulation*, says he, *gives no rest to*  
 “ *the curious; the semen seems neither to circulate*  
 “ *within nor without the testicles; the vigour*  
 “ *which the testicles add to the body ought not to*  
 “ *be ascribed to their bulk, but to their power;*  
 “ *yet I will not deny, but that some seminal atoms*  
 “ *may be mixed with the blood, from the remain-*  
 “ *der of what serves for the nutrition of the tes-*  
 “ *ticles, and which is received back into the veins.*  
 “ That these words intimate a regrefs of the  
 “ seed into the blood, is undeniable; but they  
 “ are not strong enough, and a few atoms are  
 “ not sufficient to procure the body mettle,  
 “ and add strength and vigour to it; and it  
 “ must

“ must not be a small quantity of them that  
 “ would be able to have that effect. Sauvry,  
 “ speaking of the use of the seed, in regard to  
 “ the body it is made in, and considering it  
 “ on account of the visible effects it has upon  
 “ the body, comes, without doubt, into the  
 “ opinion of its circulatory motion. I shall  
 “ transcribe the passage entire, it is worth  
 “ reading, and runs thus: “ *Nobody doubts,*  
 “ *but that we owe our origin to the seed, and that*  
 “ *whilst it regenerates us in other beings very like*  
 “ *ourselves, it renders us as it were immortal.*  
 “ *But it is more difficult to trace and know the*  
 “ *use it is of to the subject itself in which it is*  
 “ *produced; yet we see it gives us a certain de-*  
 “ *gree of perfection, strength, and vigour; be-*  
 “ *cause eunuchs, women, and those who, by ex-*  
 “ *cessive venery, are enervated, are, like chil-*  
 “ *dren, dastardly and imperfect; for the same*  
 “ *reason it produces a beard, and makes the*  
 “ *voice of a deeper sound; and as between eunuch*  
 “ *and woman, there is no other difference, than*  
 “ *what relates to the production of this liquid,*  
 “ *it is very probable, that this same liquid, re-*  
 “ *turning into the mass of the blood, is the cause*  
 “ *of these remarkable effects.*”

THESE are the words and arguments of our  
 author, to which I shall add my own reasons,  
 to confirm this opinion. The first and most  
 cogent is the smallness of the seminal bags, and  
 the continual and daily afflux into them. That  
 they are small, we are convinced by our eyes;  
 for they are not three inches in length, and  
 hardly

hardly one inch in breadth and thickness, tho' on one side they are commonly somewhat bigger than they are on the other. Now, let any one well consider the smallness of these vessels, and the daily influx of seed into them, which nobody can deny, unless he denies likewise, against all reason and experience, the circulation of the blood, the undoubted cause of secretion of all humours in the body, whether good or bad. Now let, I say, any one well consider the continual increase of seed, and the smallness of the seminal bags, that are no ways capable of receiving and containing such a quantity of seed as may be made in seven or eight weeks (I will say nothing of many years) and so long till a man lawfully cohabits with a woman. As these things then are incompatible, it is necessary that the semen should be carried off again to the mass of the blood or the body, for the reasons already alledged by Sauvry, and others that may be given. The change that is likewise observed in the temperament of the body after castration, is a corroborating evidence of the progressive motion of the semen; for it is manifest, that animals, after their testicles are taken away, grow fatter, are more languid, and less courageous. It is likewise, amongst other things, to be observed, that in eunuchs the hair of the beard and privities does not fall off before castration; and that if it is not on the chin, and other parts, it never will appear as upon those who have not undergone this operation. The privation of virility likewise changes the voice,  
which

which becomes more sharp after it. It is reported of stags that are fit for copulation, that if immediately after the shedding of their horns, which fall off every year, they are deprived of the powers of procreation, no new horns will grow in future. This motion of the seed is moreover proved from the rank smell and taste of some beasts, and the flesh of others; as also the stated periods on which their desire of copulation returns. What becomes of all the seed? Where is it hid when those animals do not couple with their females? Therefore to say that no secretion of semen is made, is speaking against all reason and experience. Organs are set apart for that secretion, which, according to the laws of nature, are constantly employed in their office. There is the matter, or arterial blood, from which the seed is separated. We are likewise taught by experience the presence of the seed in animals at all times. Whenever an animal is dissected, the seed-bags will appear turgid with recent seed. I am, moreover, of opinion, that if the semen did not circulate in the body, it would be utterly impossible for unmarried men to abstain from fornication, by reason of the continual increase of seed, and the incessant irritations it would occasion to abominable lust; not to mention the various and most dangerous disorders such a superabundance of semen would create, if the quantity could not be any way diminished, except by copulation. It is true, that a man may disturb and spoil the motion of the seed, by excesses in diet, and various

C

meats

meats and liquors, that either augment the quantity of liquor too much, or render it sharp, or else obstruct the vessels, and so cause a corruption and stagnation of the seed, and an acrimony contracted from thence, ought sometimes to be reckoned amongst the morbid causes of a *furor uterinus*, *priapism*, and *satyriasis*. This is evident from what is often observed in woman troubled with the *furor uterinus*; namely, that upon rubbing the pudenda with musk or ambergrease, or giving them clysters of the same nature, great quantities of spermatic liquor are discharged, with immediate relief to the patient. From what has been said, I think it is manifest, that the seed, from its vessels, returns into the blood, and from that again into them. But where is the passage through which it is conveyed? This, I confess, we know little of; but then our want of knowledge is no reason we should deny there is such a passage. Our ignorance and diffidence cannot take away the truth and reality of things. Tell me, pray, which way is it that, from an epyema in the thorax, an imposthume in the abdomen, or an inflammation in the pluera, lungs, &c. the purulent matter is carried to the urinary passages, the guts, or the mouth? We see that in a pleurisy, the matter is most commonly discharged at the mouth; but then at other times we likewise find, that it is brought away with the urine, or the excrements. Nay, what is still more surprising, several hard substances that had been swallowed, such as pins, &c.

have been brought away through the urinary passages with the urine, as we have had several examples, attested by persons of worth and credit, *Miscell.* I. C. 4. II. D. 10. III. P. m. 4. and *act. euditer. Mens. August. Anni. 1712.* Which way could these things get to the urinary vessels? That the blood carried them with it, through the arteries, veins, and capillary vessels, is very difficult to conceive. Let any one who understands anatomy weigh and consider the curious progress, and many crooked windings the chyle is forced to make in its passage from the stomach to the blood. Let him consider, moreover, the various windings and capillary vessels through which the blood circulates, and compare it to those hard substances, and then judge, whether they can easily be carried to the secretory organs of the urine, and with the same facility be separated from the blood, as the urine is, without wounding the vessels. The above mentioned *Tauvry* is of opinion, that the seed through the pores of the veins goes back into the mass of blood, which regrests he conceives to be made in this manner: The seed, says he, included within its vessels ferments, and, by continuing there, acquires a constitution it was not before endowed with; that is, it gets more motion, and is more subtilized; so that returning into the mass of blood, it there brings forth those alterations, which it could not have produced, unless it had been rectified and exalted in the seminal vessels. When these vessels are once filled, and more seminal mat-

ter comes to them, that which is contained in them is forced by degrees to go off into the pores of the veins, and circulating with the blood, by its glutinous quality, in a manner, involves and with-holds the spirits, and hinders the dissipation of them. This is the reason that in the act of coition great quantities of this oily substance are, by repetition, exhausted, the spirits evaporated; and from this principle arises the debility of those who are destitute of this liquor. Mr. Boyle is of the same opinion. As to myself, I believe that the seed being attenuated and subtilized in the testicles and seminal vessels, returns by the lymphatic vessels, which, together with the *vasa deferentia*, ascends into the abdomen, and then they discharge their lymph in the chyloferous vessels; and that after this manner it is carried again into the chyle and blood, to the great benefit of the whole body. I heartily wish, that the most skilful anatomists, and philological writers of the greatest penetration, would make further inquiry into this affair, the certain knowledge of which would be of great utility.

FROM these observations, I think it is clearly proved, that the superabundant semen is absorbed by the lymphatic vessels into the body, where it communicates fresh circulation and vigour, and disperses strength and power to every part of the body. If then this liquor is of such eminent importance to the proper functions of the whole machine, let us consider what may be the effects of too great a  
discharge

discharge of it. Aetius has handed down to us a description of the ills that are produced by too great an emission of the semen: "Young people, says he, have the air and appearance of old age; they become pale, effeminate, benumbed, lazy, base, stupid, and even imbecile; their bodies become bent, their legs are not able to carry them; they have an utter distaste for every thing, are totally incapacitated, and many become paralytic;" and he therefore includes amorous pleasures among the number of the six causes which occasion the palsy. Galen observes, that the same causes occasion disorders of the brain, and of the nerves, and destroy the powers; and he tells us, that a patient under his care for a violent disorder, not being perfectly recovered, died the same night that he paid the conjugal tribute to his wife. And Pliny, the naturalist, informs us, that Cornelius Gallus, the ancient prætor, and Titus Etherius, the Roman knight, died in the very act of coition. Sanctorius, who has examined with the greatest attention all the causes which actuate our bodies, has observed, after Aetius, that this weakens the stomach, destroys digestion, obstructs that insensible perspiration, the irregularity of which produces the most fatal consequences, occasions the liver and reins to be overheated, gives a disposition for the stone in the kidneys, and usually occasions the loss of, or weakens, the sight. Lommius, in his Commentaries upon Celsus, observes, that frequent emissions of the seed relax,

lax, dry up, weaken, enervate, and produce a croud of evils, such as apoplexies, lethargies, epilepsies, faintings, the loss of sight, tremors, palsy, spasm, and every species of the most racking gout. Schelaumer says, that too great a dissipation of the animal spirits weakens the stomach, destroys the appetite, and nutrition no longer taking place, the motion of the heart is weakened, all the parts languish, and an epilepsy succeeds. Salmuth has seen a learned man of a splenetic cast go mad; and another man, whose brain was so dried up, that it was heard to rattle in the pericranium; and both these disorders were occasioned by excesses of the same nature. And the author of *Memoirs of Curious Naturalists* (*De Cur* 2. ann. 5. *append. obs.* 88. p. 56) says, that he himself has seen a man of 59 years of age, who, three weeks after his marriage with a young woman, fell suddenly blind, and died at the end of four months, which he attributed to the excessive libidinous disposition of the wife, and the too frequent gratification of the husband. The celebrated Hoffman tells us (in his *De morbis ex-nimia venere*) that a young man of 18 years of age, who had frequent connections with a servant girl, was on a sudden seized with a weakness, and a general tremor in all his limbs; his face became red, and his pulse very weak. He was relieved from this state in an hour's time; but an incessant languor continued upon him. The same fit frequently returned, and threw him into great agonies, which, at the end of eight days, occasioned a contraction

contraction and tumour in the right arm, with a pain in his right elbow, which was greatly encreased: The disorder continued increasing for a long time, notwithstanding many remedies were prescribed. At length, however, the doctor performed a cure upon this patient. Boerhaave says, that the loss of too much semen occasions lassitude, debilitates, and renders exercise difficult; it causes convulsions, emaciation, and pains in the membrane of the brain; it deadens the senses, and particularly the sight; gives rise to a dorsal consumption, and various other disorders, which are connected with these. He also says, that he had seen a patient, whose disorder began by lassitude, and a weakness in all parts of the body, particularly towards the loins; it was attended with an involuntary motion of the tendons, periodical spasms, and bodily decay, inso-much, as to destroy the whole corporeal frame; he felt a pain even in the membrane of the brain, a pain which patients call a dry burning heat, and which incessantly affected the most noble parts. And he says, that he has likewise seen a young man afflicted with a dorsal consumption, who, though he was frequently cautioned not to give way to amorous pleasures, nevertheless so far yielded to their impulse, that his body, before his death, was quite deformed, and the fleshy substance which appears above the spinal apophyses of the loins, was intirely wasted; and that even the brain was in some measure consumed.

COITION brings on epileptical fits, in those who are subject to them; and to this cause Van Swieten attributes the great oppression the patients suffer, if the fits are frequent. Doctor Didier knew a merchant of Montpellier, who never made any sacrifices to Venus, without having a fit of epilepsy. Galen furnishes us with a similar instance, as well as Henry Van Steers. Van Swieten knew a man, who was troubled with the epilepsy, who had a fit upon his wedding-night. Hoffman was acquainted with a very lascivious woman, who usually had a fit of epilepsy after each act of venery. Boerhaave observes, that in the heat of venery, all the nerves are affected, oftentimes even mortally; and gives an example of a woman, who, every time she performed the act of coition, fell into a pretty long syncope; and another of a man, who died the very first time he copulated with a woman, the spasm being so violent, that it brought on a general palsy. And Monsieur Savage has given us a very extraordinary instance of a man, who was seized with a spasm in the very middle of enjoyment, whereby his whole body became stiff, he lost all sensation and memory, and the fit continued upon him for twelve years. A few years since, a handsome young woman, of a very lascivious disposition, bordering upon the furor uterinus, could not be completely gratified with the successive attacks of seven dragoons, who were quartered at Ipswich. Though each of the assailants had quite exhausted himself in her service, she would willingly have met with another

another lover the same evening ; but being in this disappointed, she went to her own bed, and the next morning was found almost speechless, bathed in her own blood, which gushed from the matrix. I saw her in this condition, and prescribed what I thought would have been of some service to her ; but she expired before the application could be made.

THUS we find, that excessive indulgence in amorous pleasures does not only produce languishing disorders, but frequently acute and violent disorders ; and it constantly impedes the cure of complaints derived from another source. Hoffman, after speaking of the dangerous effects of amorous pleasure, for those who labour under wounds, considers those risks which persons run, by addicting themselves to it, who are afflicted with fevers. Upon this occasion, he quotes an observation of Fabricius de Hilden, who says, that a man having copulated with a woman the tenth day of a pleurisy, which had terminated the seventh, by abundant perspiration, he was seized with a violent fever, and immediate trembling, and died on the thirteenth day. He also relates, that a man of a gouty disposition, much addicted to women and wine, who fancying himself cured of a pleurisy, was, immediately after coition, seized with a violent trembling all over his body, extreme flushings in his face, with all the symptoms of the disorder which he thought he had got rid of ; but which returned with much greater violence than at first, and

he was in far greater danger. He also mentions a man, who never yielded to venereal excesses, without having an intermitting fever for several days. Bartholus takes notice of a young bridegroom, who, the day after his nuptials, was seized with a violent fever, occasioned by his conjugal excesses, which brought on a great dejection of spirits, accompanied with faintings, risings in the stomach, immediate drought, light-headedness, and incapacity of sleeping, and much uneasiness. And Monsieur Chesneau tells us, he has seen a young married couple, who, the first week of their nuptials, were seized with a violent incessant fever, accompanied with flushings in their faces, which were greatly bloated, and one of them had a violent pain at the crupper ; and they fell martyrs to lust before the end of the first month.

If such fatal accidents are produced by the excessive indulgence of amorous passions in a natural and legal way, still more baneful effects must flow from the gratification of them in an unnatural and illegal manner, which I shall illustrate in the succeeding chapters.

## SECTION III.

*Of the baneful effects of self-pollution in the male-sex.*

WE have already seen the concurrent testimonies of the most eminent ancient and modern physicians, with regard to the fatal consequences of excessive indulgence in amorous pleasure in a natural way; the subject of this section is the consideration of the still more direful effects of seminal discharges in an unnatural way: for, as a celebrated philologist observes, “ The loss of too great a  
 “ quantity of semen in the natural manner, is  
 “ attended with very dangerous consequences;  
 “ but they are still more dreadful, when the  
 “ same quantity has been dissipated in an un-  
 “ natural manner; for the accidents which  
 “ happen to those who waste themselves in a  
 “ natural way are very terrible; but those  
 “ which are occasioned by self-pollution are  
 “ still more shocking.”

It would, indeed, be of little consequence, in a physical sense, whether this evacuation was occasioned by either of the methods I have mentioned, if they were alike pernicious; but the manner is in this respect equal to the substance. Sanctorius points out to us the cause of the peculiar evils arising from self-pollution:

“ He says; moderate coition is useful, when  
 “ nature sollicit for it : when it is sollicit  
 “ by the imagination, it weakens all the fa-  
 “ culties, and particularly the memory.” This  
 may be very clearly explained : when we are  
 in a state of health, we have no amorous de-  
 sires, but when the *vesiculæ seminales* are re-  
 plete with a quantity of liquor, which has ac-  
 quired such a degree of thickness, as to render  
 its return into the mass of blood difficult ; and  
 in these circumstances, when an evacuation  
 takes place, -we may be partly certain, that  
 the corporeal frame will not thereby suffer any  
 sensible diminution of strength. But such is the  
 structure of the genital organs, that they are  
 actuated, and the succeeding desires are ani-  
 mated, not only by the presence of the super-  
 abundant seminal humour, but also by the ima-  
 gination, which having great influence upon  
 these parts, may, by being occupied with las-  
 civious ideas, give them such a disposition, as  
 to create these desires, the gratification where-  
 of is the more pernicious, in proportion as it  
 is unnecessary to the welfare of the body.  
 These organs, like the others, are never pro-  
 perly actuated, but when nature stimulates  
 them : for example, the want of food and  
 drink, is indicated by hunger and thirst ; and  
 excesses in either respect are prejudicial, by  
 enfeebling the body. The necessity of going  
 to stool, and voiding urine, is signified by cer-  
 tain physical conditions ; but a bad habit may  
 so far pervert the constitution of the organs,  
 that the necessity of these evacuations may no  
 longer

longer depend upon the quantity of matter to be evacuated. We subject ourselves to want, without being in want; and this is precisely the case of those who addict themselves to self-pollution. Imagination and custom, not nature and reason, prompt them to the filthy practice. Nature is drained of one of her most essential humours, and which she so visibly points out the application of for her own support, and the perpetuation of the human species. Habit will nevertheless in time so far pervert nature, that, in consequence of that law of animal œconomy, whereby humours are attracted by irritation, there will be a continual conflux of humours upon these parts: for, as Hippocrates observes, when a man habituates himself to seminal emissions, the vessels that are therein employed, are unnecessarily dilated, and the semen is by that means more abundantly attracted. Not only the body, but the mind, is contaminated; for no sooner has this uncleanness fixed its empire in the heart, but from that time it pursues the man every where, and never relinquishes its dominion. Even upon the most serious and awful occasions, he will find himself transported with lustful conceptions and desires, which incessantly pursue him, and occupy his imagination. The self-polluter, entirely devoted to this filthy meditation, is liable, upon that account, to the same disorders, as the metaphysician, or the mathematician, whose attention is engrossed by a single object; and it is universally allowed, that nothing debilitates  
the

the faculties more than the mind being constantly engaged upon the same subject; for that part of the brain which is then occupied makes an effort, similar to that of a muscle, which has been for a long time greatly extended; this occasions such a continued motion in the part as cannot be stopt, or such a fixed attention, that the idea cannot be changed. Self-polluters are under the same predicament, or else they are completely incapacitated; so that when their faculties are not entirely destroyed, they are afflicted with all the disorders incident to the brain, the hypocondria, epilepsy, catalepsy, insensibility, imbecility, nervous disorders, &c. &c.

THESE very disorders, when thus produced, are an additional incentive to their cause, as the patient flatters himself with momentary relief, from the gratification of a disposition that perpetually engages his attention; and therefore he daily and hourly encreases his misery, and saps the very essence of existence.

IF to this we add the difficulty that frequently attends the gratification of amorous passions in a natural way, the expence that necessarily attends it, and the risk with regard to infection, which serve as so many damps to the pursuit, a young man that is dependant, having but a small income, and his character to preserve, will frequently surmount his desires, be they ever so inordinate; but when once he habituates himself to a self-gratification,

tion, the means are so easy, the method so cheap, and the danger so latent, that every time he finds an impulse he creates an opportunity, till at length the generative organs being incessantly irritated, a perpetual stimulus is brought on, independant of any external cause; so that if there were no more danger to be apprehended at first from emissions of this kind, than those in the natural way, the train of evils produced by this habit, and the mind being debauched, must demonstrate their fatal tendency: but still more cogent reasons are to be given, why feminal discharges this way are more destructive than in copulation.

THE frequency of erection, though imperfect, which this disposition excites, greatly diminishes the strength of self-polluters. All parts in a state of extention exhaust the powers: the spirits that are conveyed thither in greater quantities, and of course dissipated, are wanted in the performance of other functions, which is therefore only imperfectly done: these concurrent causes are attended with very dangerous effects. Self-polluters are also afflicted with a kind of palsy in the organs of generation, which brings on impotency, through a defect in erection, and a simple gonorrhœa, by reason of the relaxed parts suffering the real semen to escape as soon as secreted, together with an afflux of that humour which the prostatae separate. In short, all the internal membrane of the urethra acquires a catarrhous

catarrhus disposition, which excites a running similar to the *fluxor albus* in women.

THE devotees to self-pollution act in such direct opposition to nature, and all the ties of society, that they very richly deserve the accumulated evils incident to their shameful practice. I might carry this observation much farther in a theological and moral point of view; but I shall confine myself in this treatise merely to physical causes and effects, as I do not attempt to write for the emoliation of manners, but for the preservation and recovery of health. They are of such a selfish and mercenary disposition, that, unwilling to participate their bliss with the amiable part of the creation, they are justly and reciprocally debarred from that joy which the heart is sensible of, and which should be nicely distinguished from that voluptuousness, solely corporeal, which man enjoys in common with animals, and from which it is completely distinct. This joy aids digestion, animates circulation, accelerates all the functions, restores strength, and supports it. If this is found to unite with the pleasures of love, it contributes to repair, and even to restore, what they stole by force; and observation proves it. Sanctorius says upon this subject, “ After excessive coition with a  
 “ woman that is beloved, a man is not sensible of the lassitude which should follow this  
 “ excess, because the joy which the soul feels  
 “ encreases the strength of the heart, favours  
 “ the functions, and repairs what was lost.”

Beauty

Beauty has charms which dilate our hearts, and multiply our spirits. This much is, however, certain, that nature alots more felicity to those joys procured in her proper channel, than in those which are repugnant and destructive to her.

AGAIN, there are innumerable pores spread over the surface of the human body, which are plainly the emunctories or channels of discharge for vitiated redundant, or, in short, perspirable matter. There also exists on the surface of the body a resorbent faculty. Every instant half the pores of the skin exhale a very subtile humour that is of greater consequence than all our other evacuations. At the same time another kind of pores receive part of the fluids which surround us, and communicate them to the vessels. It is demonstrable, that in some cases this inhalation is very important. In robust people, the exhalation is greater than in weak persons; and contrarywise, the inhalation in these is more considerable, and the perspiration of healthy people contains something nutritious and strengthening, which being inhaled by another invigorates him. From these observations we may deduce, how the young female who lay with David increased his strength; how other aged men have been assisted in the same manner; and consequently why it weakens the healthy person, who loses without receiving, or rather who receives weak exhalations, corrupt and putrid, which are prejudicial to her constitution. In the act of co-  
ition,

ition, this perspiration is probably more animated and spiritual than at any other time. It is a real loss which is sustained, and which takes place in whatever manner the sperm is emitted, as it depends upon the agitation which attends it. In copulation it is reciprocal, and the one inhales what the other exhales. This mutual exchange is endubitably evinced, when proper attention is paid to these operations. A certain modern professor says, that he saw, not long since, a man, who was not afflicted with any kind of gonorrhæa, or any cutaneous venereal symptoms, communicate the venereal disorder to a woman, who, at the same instant, gave him the itch in exchange. This may serve as a corroborating proof of this mutual loss and gain in the act of coition; and though the example might, in ludicrous hands, be turned against the argument, it certainly evinces, that where there is no infection communicated on either side, the nutritious absorption may counterbalance the loss by perspiration.

THESE are the reasons why seminal discharges by manual friction, are more pernicious in their consequences, than in the natural act of coition. And if this were not sufficiently proved by the foregoing reasons, the shocking spectacles of masturbation, the horrid victims of self-pollution might be brought forth to display the dreadful effects peculiar to this filthy and abominable practice; and indeed it  
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is a duty owing to the public, to hold up the mirror of Onania.

THE examples I shall now give are well authenticated by the best writers upon the subject; and it will therefore be needless to trouble the reader with references or quotation marks.

THE general evils which all practitioners, who have written upon this subject, agree in, are thus specified: the intellectual faculties are weakened; loss of memory ensues, the ideas are clouded, the patients sometimes fall into slight madness, they have an incessant irksome uneasiness, continual anguish, and so keen a remorse of conscience, that they frequently shed tears; they are subject to vertiges; all their senses, and particularly sight and hearing, are weakened; their sleep, if they can obtain any, is disturbed with frightful dreams; the powers of their body decay; the growth of such as abandon themselves to those abominable practices, before it is accomplished, is greatly prevented; some cannot sleep at all, others are in a perpetual state of drowsiness; they are all affected with hypochondriac or hysteric complaints, and are overcome with the accidents that accompany those grievous disorders, melancholy, sighing, tears, palpitations, suffocations, and faintings; some emit a calcarious saliva; coughs, slow fevers, and consumptions, are chastisements which others meet with in their own crimes. The  
most

most acute pains form another object of patients complaints; some are thus affected in their heads, others in their breasts, stomach, and intestines; others have external rheumatic pains, aching numbness in all parts of their body, when they are slightly pressed; pimples do not only appear in the face, being one of the most common symptoms, but also suppurating blisters upon the nose, the breast, and the thighs, and painful itchings in the same parts. Some patients complain even of fleshy excrescences upon their foreheads. The organs of generation also participate of that misery whereof they are the primary causes. Many patients are incapable of erection, others discharge the semen upon the slightest titillation; and the most feeble erection, or in the efforts they make when at stool. Many are affected with a constant gonorrhæa, which entirely destroys their powers, and the discharge resembles foetid matter, or mucus. Others are tormented with painful priapisms, dysuriæ, stranguries, heat of urine, and a difficulty of rendering it, which greatly torments many patients. Some have painful tumours upon their testicles, penis, bladder, and spermatic cord; so that either the impracticability of coition, or a depravation of the genital liquor, render every one impotent, who has given way to this practice for any length of time. Moreover, the functions of the intestines are sometimes very much disordered; and some patients complain very much of stubborn constipations, others of the hemorrhoids, or of the running of a foetid

a foetid matter from the fundament, and some with diarrhæas immediately after the crime, &c. &c. Such are the general disorders and evils produced by this filthy practice; and I shall now illustrate them with such examples as I have either been an eye-witness of, or such as are sufficiently vouched for by men of veracity and judgment.

ONE patient, who had been married some years, and was the father of several children, having, nevertheless, addicted himself to this filthy practice, to avoid impregnating his wife, who was of a very prolific disposition, and who had agreed with him to be mutual assistants to each other in this manual operation, applied to me in a very deplorable state. He had an incessant seminal running or gleet, violent pains in his back and breast, was very faint and weak, as well by this continual draining, as from a total suppression of appetite, loathing every kind of food, and incapable of retaining any thing upon his stomach. This brought on a violent dejection of spirits, which terminated in a kind of hypochondria, accompanied with cold sweats; and notwithstanding all the remedies that were prescribed for him, by reason of his incapacity to take them, he died a martyr to this abominable practice.

ANOTHER patient, who had addicted himself to masturbation frequently from his tender years, had a knob of flesh, resembling a wen, growing upon his forehead; his face was covered

vered with pimples; his nose sore and full of eruptions; his legs and thighs fallen away, and scarce able to support him; he was also afflicted with violent pains in his head and back, and frequent tremors all over his body; his hand shook to that degree, that he was incapable of carrying a glass of wine, or any other liquor to his mouth without spilling, and though he had been a very skilful penman, he was incapable of writing his name. This patient, having discontinued his abominable practice, has in some degree recovered his strength; his face is not near so frightful, and the tremor of his hand has so much subsided, that I have lately had a letter written by him very prettily.

A YOUTH, who had not yet attained his sixteenth year, devoted himself with such rage to masturbation, that at length, instead of semen, he brought forth nothing but blood, the emission of which was soon followed with excessive pain, and an inflammation of all the organs of generation. Emollient cataplasms were ordered him, which produced the desired effect; but he soon after died of the small pox; and there is much reason to believe, that the shocks which he gave to his constitution by the abominable practice of self-pollution, greatly tended to render the disorder so fatal.

ANOTHER young patient was afflicted with that total stiffness mentioned by Boerhaave: his neck was first seized with it, then the spine, which

which gradually communicated it to all the members. Some time before his death, he could bear no other posture than lying on his belly in bed, being incapable of moving either his hands or feet, or indeed of any other kind of motion, and unable to take any other aliment than what was put into his mouth. He existed some weeks in this dreadful situation, and died, or rather went out, like a snuff of a candle, without being sensible of pain.

A PATIENT who had the misfortune in his juvenile days, being but then between eight and ten years of age, to contract this pernicious habit, soon destroyed his constitution; but he was lately afflicted in a most extraordinary manner; his nerves were extremely weak, his hands devoid of strength, incessantly trembling, and in a state of perpetual perspiration; he had violent qualms of the stomach, pains in his arms and legs, which sometimes communicated to his veins and breast. He was troubled with coughing, his eyes were sunk, and always weak; he had a violent appetite, yet greatly fell away, and had a very bad aspect as to physiognomy. This patient, nevertheless, having taken the remedies, and followed the regimen prescribed, recovered his health and vigour, and is now in perfect health.

ANOTHER patient, who gave way to this pernicious practice, had his nervous system greatly affected, which was accompanied with weakness, uneasiness, weariness, and anxiety; he

he was exhausted by an almost incessant flux of semen; his face had a cadaverous appearance; weakness rendered every kind of motion difficult to him; his legs were so feeble, that he could scarce stand upright upon them, and he did not dare stir out of his bed-room; his digestive powers were in so bad a state, that he voided his food three or four hours after having swallowed it, in its original state, and as if his stomach had the instant before received it; he was greatly afflicted with phlegm, and expectoration greatly exhausted him. His weakness and want of resolution to discontinue the shocking practice, rendered it impossible to perform a cure upon him.

ANOTHER patient, in the prime of his life, who, in the dawn of manhood, contracted a detestable habit, had his head very much confused, and was greatly subject to vertigoes, which made him apprehensive of the apoplexy, wherefore he had recourse to phlebotomy; but the physician who prescribed it was soon convinced of his error. His breast was oppressed, which occasioned a confined respiration: he had frequent pains in his stomach, and by turns his whole body was affected; he had interrupted and uneasy sleep at night, and his spirits were no way recruited by it; he was also troubled with frequent itchings, was very pale, and had pains in his eyes, which were extremely weak, his skin appeared jaundiced, and his whole body was metamorphosed: he died soon after.

A YOUTH about seventeen devoted himself to this filthy and seducing practice, when he was in a perfect state of health. His rage was so great for self-pollution, that he would sometimes repeat the act three or four times in one day, and a slight insensibility always preceded and succeeded the ejaculation, which was also attended with a convulsive motion in the extending muscles of the head, and a swelling of the neck. Some months after he had addicted himself to this practice, he was very feeble every time he was guilty of it: he nevertheless persisted till he was brought to death's door; and the evil had made so great a progress, that it was out of the power of medicine to administer him any relief. In this condition the organs of generation were so easily irritated, and were so weak, that his semen flowed from him involuntarily upon the slightest erection. By this means, being daily more and more weakened, he was now afflicted with an habitual spasm, which had not hitherto affected him but in the very act, and discontinued afterwards. But this fit now continued upon him for twelve or fourteen hours, and which brought on such violent pains in the neck, that he could not be prevented from making the most hideous outcries. During these periods, he was incapable of swallowing any food; so that his weakness and misery daily increased; and he languished in this state for several months, towards the end of which, before he died, he resembled a corpse, more than a living man, casting forth

an infectious stench, and aqueous palish blood issuing from his nose, slaver constantly flowing from his mouth, and, being troubled with a diarrhæa, he voided his excrements in the bed, without knowing it. The disorder of his mind was equally shocking as that of his body; his memory was entirely destroyed, destitute of ideas, and consequently of the ability of comparing any the most simple; wherefore he became void of reflection, and was insensible to every thing but pain, and which was very violent upon the periodical return of the spasm. Here we shall leave this unhappy person, as his condition was too horrid to be reflected on without terror, and as death at length, his only consolation, came to his relief.

BESIDES these examples, Mr. Limmerman acquaints us, that a man about twenty-three years of age was greatly troubled with an epilepsy, from having much infeeblled himself by self-pollution. Every time he had a seminal emission, he fell into a perfect fit of epilepsy, and afterwards pains in the reins and about the coccyx: nevertheless, he could not refrain from this practice; for having, after he received some benefit from the doctor's advice, returned again to his former infamous practice, he was at length seized with the fits whilst walking in the streets; and he was found dead in his chamber, having fallen out of bed, bathed in his own blood. Mr. Mieg of Basil, in Switzerland, tells us, that the son of a merchant in that city, died at the age of

fourteen, after having baffled the skill of all the Helvetic physicians: his disorder was convulsions, and a sort of epilepsy, which derived its source from self-pollution. And the celebrated Hoffman informs us of a young man, who, at the age of fifteen, having given way to self-pollution, which he continued till he was near twenty-three, was at that time afflicted with such a weakness in his eyes and head, that the former were often troubled with violent spasms at the time of ejaculation: that when he was willing to pay more than common attention to any thing, a kind of stupor, similar to intoxication, succeeded; the pupil of the eye was greatly dilated, and he suffered exquisite torture in that part; he involuntarily shed tears, and a large quantity of whitish matter collected itself in the corners of his eyes, which were thereby rendered very painful.

A MARRIED man applied to me, who acknowledged, that, in his youth, having much defiled himself by self-pollution, he had brought on a running, which the cold bath, and many other remedies, did not remove: that in this situation no one suspected him of labouring under any bodily complaint, but his doctor, as he was fresh coloured, and naturally robust; and that meeting with a young lady, whose beauty enamoured him, he paid his addresses to her, and soon gained her consent. He had, however, some mortifying reflections concerning his disorder; but being in hopes of a cure, and dreading the loss of his

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mistress,

mistress, if he had deferred the union, which he earnestly wished for, they were married. It was near four months after the ceremony that he applied to me, when he acknowledged, that he had been as yet unable to consummate his nuptials; for that he had a seminal discharge before a perfect erection; and that all endeavours, after the first attempt, only produced a further loss of semen, without communicating any strength to the penis: that he at first attributed this to the over-fondness he had for his wife, and that delicacy which sometimes throws a check upon a man in his highest vigour; and he therefore resolved to surmount what he then thought false modesty, by drinking a bottle extraordinary; but this, so far from remedying the evil, did but increase it; for he could procure no kind of erection, and his seed came away as soon as he touched her nature. He was the more mortified at his disagreeable situation, as he believed his wife had made complaints to her mother, who had dropped some hints of a divorce, the thoughts of which tortured his soul more than the loss of life, fortune, and every thing else that was dear to him. This gentleman being naturally of a strong constitution, and having in every respect (except pollution) lived regularly and soberly, I performed a cure upon him in about five months; and a short time after he came to me with rapture, to tell me that his wife was pregnant.

THESE examples will be sufficient to evince the shocking effects of this baneful practice in the male sex; evils that are not solely confined to the body, but communicate their influence to the mind, which is hereby overwhelmed with anguish, melancholy, and despair, an incapacity of business, or even recreation, a disrelish to all the comforts and solace of this life, and more particularly the female sex, whom at length they consider with horror, from a consciousness of having injured them in a most essential and irreparable manner. With these torturing reflections, and this incessant self-reproach, they appear as monuments of grief and misery, and lucky are those who do not terminate so shocking a career with even suicide, after having been the indirect destroyer of many others.

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## SECTION IV.

*Of the dreadful consequences of self-pollution, and the gratification of the SAPPHIC PASSION in the female sex.*

SORRY I am to be obliged to say, that the tender sex, the most amiable part of the creation, those for whom we are animated to glory, danger, and every enterprize which we think will recommend us to their regard ; I say, these desirable objects, who should meet us with mutual and warm embraces, and render our passions and our loves congenial, have their minds as well as bodies frequently enervated by shameful practices, which they think are entirely hidden from the world ; but which are but too plainly depicted in their countenances, and by their frigid relish for genuine love, and their unnatural distaste to the male part of creation, for whom they were by Providence destined ; for their bodies are by these filthy practices not only so weakened and emaciated, that they are often rendered barren, and thereby greatly prejudice society and posterity ; but they at length contract an unconquerable habit of this kind of gratification, which is always so ready at hand, and which they fancy they indulge themselves, without the danger of child-bearing, the loss of reputation,

or

or the loss of health. In this they greatly deceive themselves; for the evil consequences of such practices are infinitely more dreadful than any of the dangers which terrify them from natural enjoyment.

THIS 'tis true is a tender point to treat upon; and it may be urged in their defence, that strong passions, a naturally amorous constitution, the sight of accidental rencounters between animals in the streets or fields, which may render their natural stimulations somewhat inordinate, and scarce controulable, are great palliatives for what they may think an innocent amusement. Add to this their parents and relations, who have the care of them, do not consider how early these natural operations take place; that if they are thinking of a husband for a daughter, they are consulting rather the force of his pocket, than the strength of his constitution, and the risk a young woman runs in having any intercourse with a man before marriage. It were to be wished, that parents would consult the real happiness of their children, and not attempt to curb those desires that are laudable when directed in a proper channel, but rather endeavour to promote their gratification as far as they are reasonable. To this end, it would be prudent to provide a proper husband for a daughter as soon as she is marriageable, instead of letting her languish till she is five or six and twenty in hopes of a good match. Mothers should not attempt to persuade their daughters that they are mere

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children,

children, when they are as capable of being mothers as themselves, with no other view than that their real age may not be guessed at or discovered. Such artifices as these are constantly detected; and it would be much more to their credit to be young grandmothers than old coquettes.

IN England, and other northern climates, females do not attain the age of maturity so early as in more southern latitudes; so that in some parts of Asia women are almost past child bearing as early as some of cold constitutions in the northern parts of America have little more than attained the age of puberty. But in general females in England are capable of child-bearing about fifteen; and this is testified by the downy marks of puberty upon their privities, the projection of their breasts, and their monthly purgations. Many have these signs upon them at thirteen and fourteen; and could therefore increase the number of our progeny from that time, till about the age of forty-five, which is the period when women in this part of the world usually discontinue having their menses, and are past child-bearing. It must therefore be very impolitic for a state to prevent a female being able to dispose of her person in wedlock till she become twenty-one, since, it is plain, she might in that time have produced six or seven subjects, the number of which constitute the most permanent riches, prosperity, and security of a kingdom.

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THUS much I have said to palliate, if possible, any errors in the conduct of the ladies, whose advocate I would willingly be upon every occasion: but let not any female imagine, that the most elaborate eloquence can ever excuse their pursuing this abominable practice, which is the more baneful, as it may be said to be contagious, a single sinner, in this respect, having frequently corrupted a whole seminary of, before, virtuous girls.

THE dangers attending this practice are so various and dreadful, that they cannot be painted in too lively colours; for even the instrument of gratification is sometimes as fatal as the future effects of repeated indulgence. To explain what I mean in this respect, I shall relate a fact of which I was an eye-witness, and could, if necessary, be attested by several other gentlemen of the faculty, as well as nurses, and other persons who are acquainted with the event. A young female, about the age of fourteen, who belonged to a certain laudable charity, a little north of St. Paul's, but was not perceived to have so much of the woman about her as she really had (otherwise she would not have remained there) was brought into the sick ward whilst I attended, when she made excessive complaints of being in violent pain towards her back and loins, and which the nurse who attended her attributed to the stone in her bladder. I told her I must examine her, which she seemed much averse to, and it was with the utmost difficul-

ty I could prevail upon her to let me make an inspection; but her bashfulness was at length conquered by her pain. Upon examining the pudendum, which bore the external marks of puberty, I found the lips much distended and inflated; and upon penetrating my finger, I felt something of a hard substance, which I at first imagined to be the clitoris in a state of more than common tension. I now told her, that I believed she had been guilty of some practices that had been very pernicious to her, and intreated her to tell me the truth. Upon thrusting against this opposing part, I found I greatly increased her pain, and I was convinced that she had forced something up the vagina, from whence she could not withdraw it. I now begged her to tell me what it was, when she frankly told me, that she had been playing with a carrot, which had broke just at the time of ejaculation. She also owned, she had been frequently guilty of the practice, but had hitherto escaped from such an accident. It was with great difficulty that I was able to extract it, and not without putting her to the most excruciating pain. At length, however, I released her, and brought out the thin end of a middle sized carrot, about five inches long.

THIS fact requires no comment to show to what a pitch of mortifying shame, as well as torture, such acts as these frequently expose that sex, whom we are inclined to believe equally innocent, delicate, and chaste.

IN other respects, the danger to which women expose themselves by this filthy practice, are very analagous to those which the men are liable to from this filthy practice. The humour which is lost by females is not, it is true, so elaborate as the male semen, and may not therefore enfeeble the body so speedily; but when they are guilty of excesses, their nervous system being weaker than ours, and naturally more liable to spasms, the accidents arising therefrom are still more evident: they are also exposed to hysterical fits, and dreadful vapours; to incurable jaundices; to violent cramps in the stomach and back; to acute pains in the nose; to the fluor albus, the accretion whereof is a continual source of the most smarting pain, to descents and ulcerations of the matrix, and to all the infirmities which these disorders bring on; to the furor uterinus, which at once deprives them of decency and reason, and brings them to a level with the most lascivious brutes, a state in which they cannot long exist, as their vices and crimes, when arrived at this pitch, must soon terminate their days, though not their ignominy..

APRETTY woman, in the best state of health, who addicts herself to self-pollution, will find her charms presently decay, her eyes will become languid and dead, her complexion will fade, her body will fall away, and in a short time, if she perseveres in the practice, from an agreeable and desirable object, she will become not only tasteless to the men, but even

disgustful to herself; and if it be true, as Rochefoucault says, That the last sighs of a fine woman are more for the loss of her beauty than her life, she will have the disagreeable task of anticipating this mortification in the very prime of youth. We are told by all the professors, who have written upon this subject, that young people of either sex who addict themselves to it will fall away and diminish, instead of increase in their growth; and we often find young people of both sexes, but particularly females, who, being well made at the age of ten or twelve, become afterwards crooked, by the bending and weakness of the spine.

I HAVE already mentioned the disgust that is created by this practice to natural pleasures, and it is still stronger in females than in our sex; for women, who have habituated themselves to this practice, are always indifferent to the lawful duties of the conjugal bed, even when their inclinations and power still remain; and this indifference does not only induce many females to embrace a life of celibacy, but accompanies others that have been prevailed upon to enter upon the marriage-state; and we have the testimonies of many females, that this practice had gained so complete a dominion over their senses, that they detested the lawful means of assuaging the lusts of the flesh.

A MARRIED woman made her case known, through the channel of her midwife, to a gentleman

tleman of the faculty, nearly as follows: When I was a young girl of between fifteen and sixteen, at the boarding-school, being enticed by some of my school-fellows, and particularly my bed-fellow, I began to penetrate those parts, which should never have been explored but by a husband. This practice I stuck to till I was run away with by the musick-master at eighteen. It were needless to enumerate the difficulties I met with till my relations were reconciled to the match. Sufficient it is to say, I had four children by my husband in three years, two being twins; but they all died, and also my husband soon after. I was in state of widowhood for three years, and then I married with the approbation of my relations. Before this union, I found all my girlish inclinations come upon me, and not daring to risk any connection with a man, I repeated my boarding-school practice with such violence (particularly just before and after my monthly courses) that I made myself violently sore, and brought on such a bearing down of the womb, that it was with much difficulty I could walk. These complaints have increased since my last marriage; and, though four years have elapsed from that period, I have not been once pregnant. I have been prevailed upon by my husband to undergo a physician's inspection; when he said, that my womb was very weak and slippery, and he was afraid I should never have any more children. He, however, prescribed the Bath water, and injections; but they have been of no service.

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I am now really weakened by a white running, which is very considerable, and with the bearing down, which frequently is very great, and occasions a continual pain in my womb, and in my back, whereby I am greatly fallen away; and what is remarkable, I have no manner of inclination for the act of procreation, and very little or no pleasure in the act; which I am inclined to believe is as much the reason as any other of my incapacity of bearing children. I have, nevertheless, a good stomach, and sleep very well; and therefore it appears to me the more extraordinary, that I who used to be so amorous, and, to say the truth, so excessively desirous of conversing with my first husband in this way, should have no inclination in this respect to my present husband, notwithstanding I have a great regard for him.

ANOTHER female, upon being much importuned by a man-midwife of eminence who visited her, at her husband's request, at length acknowledged, that she had commenced the filthy practice of self-pollution very young, and persevered in it till the time of her marriage, which took place when she was about twenty years of age: that she had always been very pale from the age of puberty, though before she had a fresh complexion; and that from a good state of health, she became very weakly, and never had her menses but four times till she was married; after which she still continued her filthy practice, having much more gratification

gratification in it than in her husband's embraces, though he was a young vigorous man, and remarkably calculated to please the fair sex: that she had been equally a stranger to her courses and pregnancy, and was constantly ailing in other respects. Upon examining her womb, she was found to have a continual oozing, and a great bearing down.

A SHORT time since, a young woman, about seventeen years old, who had hitherto enjoyed a good state of health, was seized with an astonishing weakness; her powers daily diminished; in the day-time she was constantly overcome with drowsiness, and was at night unable to sleep; she lost her appetite, and a dropsical swelling spread all over her body. She consulted a skilful surgeon, who, after he found that her menses were regular, suspected self-pollution. The effect of the first question he put to her confirmed the justness of his suspicion, and the patient then acknowledged it.

A MARRIED woman, aged about forty-seven years, consulted a physician for barrenness, from a laxness of muscular fibres of the vagina and uterus; but examining the case, and suspecting both from the character she bore, and from what she herself said, that it was not owing to any insufficiency in the husband, whom she publicly complained of, but to her own insatiable lust; for it plainly appeared her case was owing to friction: wherefore,

fore, considering her age, and the little hopes of success upon such a patient, he refused meddling.

A FEMALE patient of nineteen was of a sanguine complexion, and a hot and lustful temperament, which, overcoming the virtuous principles she had in her youth imbibed, was prompted to abuse herself by self-pollution. She had continued in this practice from the age of fourteen, not without frequent intervals of remorse at her unclean desires, never imagining, however, that there was any sin or danger in the act; but shuddered at the thoughts of a discovery, in case of marriage, from her husband, as she had not only broke away all the badge of virginity; but her womb was as much distended as if she had borne several children, by reason of the largeness of the instruments with which she used latterly to gratify her lust; and the more she followed the practice, the more her desires were heightened. She was at length brought to a most shocking state, by nervous disorders, and particularly those of the womb; in which state she applied to an eminent surgeon; but, alas! she was so violently affected with a *furor uterinus*, that she would implore every man she met to assuage her lust, not only in obscene terms, but even by the most indecent actions; and her very surgeon, upon examining the parts, excited such violent sensations, that she could not refrain from importuning him to commit the act of coition; but he not complying

plying with her request, she had recourse to self-pollution, which had such an effect upon the *ovaria*, that she shed some of the *ova*. In this condition she remained near four years, at the end of which time she died raving in one of those lascivious fits. Her body was afterwards opened by some skilful surgeons, when the glans of the clitoris, or female prepuce, which is the chief seat of pleasure in woman, was much larger than the natural size, and was invested with a sharp corroding watery humour, which they imagined must in that part itch to a prodigious degree, and create the insufferable titillation and desire: and they were also of opinion, that the acrimonious humour with which that part was affected had been attracted thither, by the frequent operations to gratify her lubidinous desires. She was naturally very handsome, and might have been an ornament to her sex, if she had not given way to this unnatural practice; for it was this alone that brought on all her complaints.

ANOTHER female patient, who had, in her early days, addicted herself to this abominable custom, was at length reduced to such a state, that when she leaned upon her elbows, or used any strength with her hands, they were quite benumbed, and her fingers would catch and draw up like the cramp. Her stomach appeared outwardly swelled, and she had violent pains in it, which often made her feel as if she would choak, and made her seem as if  
 she

she was sore from her navel to her throat. She had racking pains in her back, between her loins, and under her shoulders. If she offered to pull herself up, all her bones would snap, which might be heard standing near her. If at any time she turned her head on one side, or offered to talk much, it greatly hurt her. The hollow of her stomach, and under her shoulders, seemed inwardly swelled, and full of pain. Her hands were seldom warm, and the bones of her insteps at night were much swelled, and very painful. After sleeping, she awoke with great numbness in her arms; and if she happened to be on her back, with a great pain in her heels. When she wanted to walk, she was ready to swoon with the numbness in her loins, pain in her back and stomach. Her shoulders sometimes seemed as if they were stuck full of pins; and it was with much difficulty she could move either of her hands to her head, which made her believe she had strained something within her. Towards the evening, she had prodigious flushings in the face, which made her head beat as if full of pulses, whereby her eyes were greatly weakened, and her sight much impaired. When she awoke in a morning, she was very dry, and her tongue very white, with great inward heat and drought, and much inclined to vomit, and sick fits, accompanied with giddiness. She was very apprehensive of an ulcer in her womb, or kidnies, as she had violent pains in these parts. This, upon examination, appeared to be the case; and she soon

soon after fell a martyr to her lustful and unnatural indulgences.

IN the course of these examples, the reader must have observed, that female invention is more prolific than man's, even in sin; and that though self-pollution in the male sex has scarce ever been known to be practised any otherwise than by manual friction, female sinners have, avowedly, made use of various foreign instruments to gratify their inordinate lusts: but besides these applications, it is well known, that there is another species of pollution among the females, which may be called *clitorical*, the origin of which may be traced so far back as the time of the second *Sappho*, and from her derives its name of the *Sapphic passion*. Some women are by nature, but more by vicious practices, so formed, as to have some resemblance to man: this has given rise to the erroneous opinion, which, in some degree, still prevails, that there are such beings as *hermaphrodites*. The uncommon size of a part, which is naturally very small, and whereupon Monsieur Tronchin has furnished us a very elaborate description, is the cause of those supposed phenomena, and the shameful abuse of the part, in this respect, all the evil. There may have been some females, who, perhaps, thought themselves more than women, and glorying in the functions of a double sex, usurped the province of men. Others may, perhaps, have been prompted, by curiosity, to the same kind of essays; but most votaries to the  
Sapphic

Sapphic passion are those, who, by frequent and violent self-pollution, have forced nature out of her common path; and lust being generated by lust, their inordinate desires cannot be gratified, but by still more unnatural practices.

I HAVE seen a letter, written by a young lady of only eighteen, who had many mental endowments, learning, and naturally a great share of beauty, wherein she relates the cause and progress of her crimes and disorders: she says, “To be ingenuous, I had been guilty of  
 “this nasty practice (meaning self-pollution)  
 “from the time I was twelve years old. A  
 “young female servant at my father’s, who  
 “was of an amorous complexion, yet dread-  
 “ing any commerce with the men, first  
 “taught it me. Frequent, and almost in-  
 “cessant repetition, at length produced such  
 “a bearing down of my womb as greatly  
 “terrified me; but Sally appeased my fears,  
 “by telling me, that she had been in the  
 “same state, and it went away again; *and*  
 “*now, she said, we might act like man and*  
 “*wife, and that there would be full as much*  
 “*pleasure as if we were really so.* But I soon  
 “became so weak, that I could not walk,  
 “and in a short time I had such violent pains  
 “in my back, my womb, and particularly  
 “the offending part, which continues still  
 “to hang out, notwithstanding what Sally  
 “said, that I am afraid I shall never be well  
 “again. But what terrifies more than all is,  
 “that

“ that my father has taken pains to get a  
 “ husband for me, imagining, I believe, my  
 “ paleness and weakness are occasioned by  
 “ my being kept from man; and a young  
 “ gentleman of fortune is now paying his ad-  
 “ dresses to me: I am frightened out of my wits  
 “ at the discovery he will make the first  
 “ night; and, indeed, I would rather be  
 “ with Sally than the handsomest man in  
 “ England, &c. &c. &c.”

THUS we find, that the danger of this kind  
 of pollution is not less than that of the other  
 sorts of masturbation: the effects are, indeed,  
 equally shocking, as all these paths lead to ema-  
 ciation, languor, pain, and even death: but  
 this last species deserves the greater attention,  
 as it is now so common, and there are many  
 women who are known to love girls with as  
 much fondness as ever did the most passionate  
 of men, and conceive the most poignant jea-  
 lousy, when they were addressed by the male  
 sex, upon the subject of love or tender dalli-  
 ance.

I SHALL make no apology for transcribing  
 here that part of Dr Quincy's translation  
 of Carr's Medicinal Epistles, relative to two  
 nuns, who were reported to have changed  
 their sex, being so pertinent and illustrative to  
 the subject under consideration.

“ I SHOULD blush, perhaps, from too  
 “ much modesty, to concern myself in a sto-  
 “ ry

“ ry that is not a very chaste one, had not a  
 “ professor of divinity given it to the world  
 “ in print, and a college of cardinals inquired  
 “ into it. This gives me some assurance, and  
 “ guards me from any imputations of indecen-  
 “ cy. I shall therefore not write any thing  
 “ out of wantonness, or omit any thing ma-  
 “ terial upon the account of modesty. It is  
 “ an unhappiness, that you have fixed upon  
 “ me to account for so unnatural a phenome-  
 “ non in nature. You would greatly have  
 “ obliged the learned world, had you prevail-  
 “ ed upon the Honourable Mr. Boyle, who  
 “ is a finished philosopher, to have under-  
 “ taken this work, though I am not, indeed,  
 “ without hopes, that as soon as this strange  
 “ story is related to him, he will think it  
 “ worth his skilful inquiry; for such is his  
 “ consummate learning, and, which will be  
 “ to his eternal honour, such are his inclina-  
 “ tions to instruct others, that he will be pro-  
 “ voked not to suffer such an extraordinary  
 “ case, to escape the notice of the ablest phi-  
 “ losopher.

“ You acquaint me in your letter, that it  
 “ is reported at Rome, that two nuns, in a  
 “ monastery, were changed in such a man-  
 “ ner, as to be suspected of virility. The re-  
 “ port reached the pope’s ears, who, upon  
 “ such an extraordinary occasion, ordered  
 “ some cardinals to inquire into the truth of  
 “ it. After their search, they affirmed, that  
 “ the nuns were grown in such a manner, as  
 “ to

“ to have changed their sex ; in testimony of  
 “ which you say, the cardinals commanded  
 “ them to be expelled the monastery ; and  
 “ that, at that time, they had changed  
 “ their dress, and took upon themselves the  
 “ employ of men.

“ I WONDER what could induce his ho-  
 “ linefs to commit the inspection of that affair  
 “ to his cardinals, who are no way conversant  
 “ in the difference of sexes. It is true, in-  
 “ deed, that the reputation of their integrity  
 “ would prevent all manner of fufpicion as to  
 “ their report ; but yet their unspotted chaf-  
 “ tity, joined with fhame and modefty, could  
 “ never fuffer them to make fuch a nice in-  
 “ quiry, as the nature of fuch a thing de-  
 “ manded.

“ PERSONS who read this account may,  
 “ perhaps, be divided into different opinions,  
 “ and both of them wrong. Some who have  
 “ a confidence in the integrity of the cardi-  
 “ nals may not, upon that account, difbe-  
 “ lieve it ; but, as it exceeds the wonted  
 “ bounds of nature, take it for a miracle.  
 “ Others may wholly difbelieve it, as it fo  
 “ far exceeds the reach of nature, that, as  
 “ miracles are ceafed, it muft be impoffible ;  
 “ and as they are under no obligation to dif-  
 “ believe impoffibilities, fo they will not be-  
 “ lieve this.

“ I WOULD

“ I WOULD satisfy both these kinds of  
 “ readers, and by you I doubt not, in such  
 “ intricacies, it will be well taken, that I  
 “ have endeavoured to do my best. The one,  
 “ that the excursion of nature, which you  
 “ call a change of sex, is no way to be ac-  
 “ counted an impossibility, from the structure  
 “ of the parts of generation: and the other,  
 “ that such a wonderful phænomenon does not  
 “ exceed the bounds of nature, nor is it so  
 “ unfrequent as to deserve to be reckoned a  
 “ miracle. He must be a stranger to the power  
 “ of nature, who thinks she cannot do some-  
 “ times, what she thinks not fit to do often.

“ WHOSOEVER thinks these two nuns  
 “ have changed their sex, is under a mistake;  
 “ all that gives any ground for such an opini-  
 “ on is the uncommon increase of the cli-  
 “ toris, which, as it is used to frequent irri-  
 “ tations, thrusts out, and enlarges its de-  
 “ menensions, not unlike to a human *penis*. I  
 “ am unwilling to be so censorious with rela-  
 “ tion to these nuns, who profess a severer  
 “ way of living, and a more constant attend-  
 “ ance at their devotion, as to suspect their  
 “ lasciviousness should prompt them to an un-  
 “ usual exercise of those parts, by which they  
 “ might increase their bulk, according to Mar-  
 “ tial,

“ *Mentiturque virum prodigiosa venut,*

“ because there are instances of the same in  
 “ infants themselves, who cannot be supposed  
 “ guilty of such wanton practices.

“ NOR

“ NOR can I be of opinion, that these per-  
 “ sons were men from the first; because if  
 “ they had counterfeited their habits to gratify  
 “ their lust in such a place, there would have  
 “ happened some discoveries of it, which there  
 “ has not done; and therefore no such thing  
 “ ought to be suspected. Besides, such a con-  
 “ jecture cannot take place, when we con-  
 “ sider their breasts are like those of other wo-  
 “ men, and were so at their admission into  
 “ the convent, and continue so still.

“ THE inquisitive Regneur de Graef, in  
 “ his book upon the female organs, upon the  
 “ head *de clitoris*, takes notice of the clitoris  
 “ of an infant to come so near the member of  
 “ virility in the other sex, as to deceive the  
 “ nurse, and the more skilful gossips, who  
 “ took it for a male child, and in its baptism  
 “ named it accordingly; and that the mistake  
 “ was not detected till after its death, upon  
 “ an accurate dissection of the body, of which  
 “ the same author gives an account.

“ THE clitoris, in some adult persons, is  
 “ seen to hang out beyond the *labiæ*, or  
 “ the openings of the thighs. There is a di-  
 “ stemper called *furor uterinus*, which some-  
 “ times arises from this cause, that in walk-  
 “ ing, or other exercise, the clitoris is rub-  
 “ bed by the cloaths, and excites such extra-  
 “ vagant desires as puts them out of all shame  
 “ and modesty, and stimulates them to a de-  
 “ gree of madness to venereal embraces.

E

THIS

“ This uncommon growth of the clitoris is  
 “ so frequent in some eastern countries, that  
 “ the more skilful surgeons have found out a  
 “ method of amputating it, and to take it  
 “ away from a person about to marry, lest it  
 “ should be a hindrance in coition; nor is  
 “ the reason for such a growth very difficult  
 “ to be assigned: first, Because the fury of  
 “ lust wonderfully distends the nerves and ar-  
 “ teries, and particularly, above any other  
 “ parts, blows up those organs with spirits  
 “ and heat. Upon coition, real or imagina-  
 “ ry, those of a man are blown up and ex-  
 “ tended by a plentiful influx of blood  
 “ and animal spirits, from the titillation  
 “ which attends it, as if nature was pro-  
 “ digal in her care for a supply of those parts.  
 “ Secondly, The cavity of the part wherein  
 “ it is situated (as if it were not to be con-  
 “ fined to narrow bounds, which would hin-  
 “ der its increase) facilitates its growth; and  
 “ as it is placed where there is room enough,  
 “ it can enlarge itself on every side, whereby  
 “ its vessels are prolonged, and receive nou-  
 “ rishment on all parts.

“ UPON a comparison of the male and fe-  
 “ male organs, you will not find them to dif-  
 “ fer so much as you at first imagined, ex-  
 “ cepting that those of a man are thrown out  
 “ with a more vigorous heat; whereas those  
 “ of a woman, by a defect in that respect, are  
 “ only to be perceived inwardly. The cli-  
 “ toris of a woman, upon turning out, would  
 “ resemble

resemble a *scrotum*, and the two *ovaries* annexed to the sides of its bottom, with what they include, would make up the number of the testicles. The clitoris is shaped like a penis; it has the same source of pleasure, stretches out, and relaxes in the same manner again; it also ends in a gland, but wants a cavity; which is no wonder, because it does not serve for the discharge of any thing, as it oozes out its contents more conveniently into the aperture of the neck of the bladder: but was that aperture to be closed, as it is in men, then, in an erection, it would necessarily find some other outlet towards the end of its gland; for the vessels of all kinds are first formed by the impulse of some circulating flux; where the flux is obstructed, it forms a cell, and vessels where it circulates.

“In our first formation, when the genital parts hardly exceed the point of a needle, the difference of sex depends upon very nice circumstances; but when persons are grown up, it is the most difficult thing in the world, to believe there can be a thorough change from one sex to the other, as the poets relate of Terefia: but there is more reason to think, that the largeness of the clitoris, by its likeness to a human penis, might deceive the inquirers into this matter; or that they were men from the first formation; but that the genital parts, by some defect in the first rudiments, not  
 E 2 “ obtain-

“ obtaining a due protrusion, upon the in-  
 “ crease of strength and venereal titillation,  
 “ broke forth, and seemed to grow afresh.

“ WE have frequent instances of nature’s  
 “ excursions in those parts. There is a very  
 “ remarkable story of a child born some time  
 “ since, in a village near the mountain called  
 “ Grandvaux, in France, in all other respects  
 “ like other children, who had those parts  
 “ which distinguish its sex perfectly like a  
 “ man; the pubes were grown over with  
 “ thick hair, and he frequently had all the  
 “ motions of lasciviousness, with an erection  
 “ for coition, especially when waking from  
 “ sleep, and, before he was two years old, his  
 “ parents were advised not to suffer him to  
 “ be with his sisters or maids, lest that should  
 “ happen at two years of age, which Hi-  
 “ eronymus wondered at in twelve or thir-  
 “ teen.

“ NATURE refuses to be circumscribed in  
 “ her operations, but she has never been known  
 “ to make such excursions as this must have  
 “ been; we ought therefore to stand in won-  
 “ der at her great regularity, because of our  
 “ inability in following her through all her  
 “ works.”

FROM hence it may plainly be adduced,  
 that these religious young ladies had some avo-  
 cations from their prayers of a more sensual  
 nature; and I think there can no doubt re-  
 main

main of their frequent gratifications of the Sapphic passion. It is true, that some women have naturally a greater protusion of the clitoris than others; but scarce any were ever known to have the projection and erection of this part so far resemble a penis, as not only to be capable of the act of coition, but even to be pronounced of the male sex. The ancients called these women fricatrices and fubigatrices; and modern times have produced instances in Romish countries, of punishments having been inflicted for this abuse of nature. The Arabians have a still more refined notion upon this head; and in Creophagi they actually circumcise the women thus afflicted, by cutting away a certain apophosis of musculous skin, that descends from the superior parts of the matrix, and is subject to erection in the act of coition. We are told by Lusitanus, that a very pious virgin had a very propended clitoris, which so provoked her to venery, by its only unavoidable friction against her linen and thighs as she moved, that gave her great trouble and affliction; insomuch, that, with the consent of her parents, this physician was applied to, in order to make an amputation of it, which, he adds, was accordingly performed.

ACCORDING to some ancient histories of France, there was people who inhabited near Languedoc, the females of which had most amazing clitorises, insomuch, that they could perform either the man or the woman's part

in the act of coition, and communicated nearly as much pleasure to the female, who was in this respect the patient, as a male agent; in consequence of which laws were framed to leave them to their choice, in which capacity they would act; but having once chosen, they were liable to severe punishments if they introduced any variety in their copulative operations. Modern writers tell us, that upon the confines of the mouth of the river Mississippi, whose source is in the gulph of Mexico, there is a people similar to these females. I cannot, however, assent to these phenomena, till such time as I have further conviction of their reality, or better authority than the reports of these writers to credit their existence.

BUT upon the principles already set forth, the propension of this part may be accounted for; so that when Plauterius, a physician, tells us, that he had seen a woman have a clitoris hang out as long as a goose's neck; or when Plempius relates, that one Helena lay with several women, and actually gained the virginity of many maids; these relations are not so incredible. The following story is also very well attested by several French physicians:

“ A certain young lady at Toulouse had a relaxation of the vagina, resembling a man's  
 “ penis, and some asserted that she used it in  
 “ that way, it being six inches in length, and  
 “ four in circumference in the middle, where  
 “ it was very hard. It gradually increased  
 “ from

“ from her childhood. She was examined  
 “ by the physicians of that city, who were  
 “ unanimously of opinion, that it was a real  
 “ penis; whereupon the town magistrates  
 “ ordered her to wear the dress of a man. In  
 “ this habit she came to Paris, but thought  
 “ proper to throw off the male dress, in order  
 “ to gain admission into a nunnery, where she  
 “ spent the remainder of her days.”

I SHALL make no comment upon the propriety of admitting a person of her form and disposition into a seminary of this nature, or the danger of her inspiring many (before) virtuous nuns with the most lascivious desires. Had the account of the two holy sisters, who were supposed to have changed their sex, not been wrote long before this affair happened, I should have been inclined to believe that this young lady was one of them: however, it seems, that a soft chin, and a female dress, will find admission into these religious societies; if so, and such ladies as this, are received, I cannot imagine there would be any great difficulty for a young men with but little beard to gain admission, as he might, probably, if necessary, more easily conceal the part that might preclude him, than this young lady could its resemblance:

MR. COWPER, the surgeon, furnishes us with the following case of a woman, whose husband could never make any penetration, when he endeavoured to cohabit with her, but

into the urinary passage, the vagina being so uncommonly closed, that he could not, with the most vigorous erection, gain admission with his penis.

“ I WAS called upon to a married woman  
 “ about twenty years of age, whose lower  
 “ belly was distended as if with child. Upon  
 “ examining the pudendum, I found the  
 “ hymen altogether impervious, and driven  
 “ out beyond the labia pudendi, in such a  
 “ manner, that, at first sight, it appeared not  
 “ unlike a prolapsus uteri. In the upper part,  
 “ towards the clitoris, we found the orifice  
 “ of the meatus urinarius, or urinary passage,  
 “ very open, and its sides extended not un-  
 “ like the anus, or cloaca of a cock, that,  
 “ without any difficulty, I could put up my  
 “ finger into the bladder of urine. On divid-  
 “ ing the hymen, at least a gallon of grumous  
 “ blood, of divers colours and consistencies,  
 “ came from her, which was the retained  
 “ menstua. The next day, no less quantity  
 “ of the same matter flowed upon taking out  
 “ the pessary, which I had put in the day be-  
 “ fore. After three or four days, she was  
 “ easy, and soon after recovered, and with-  
 “ in a year after was delivered of a healthy  
 “ child. Her husband told us, that, tho’  
 “ lying with her at first (before this opera-  
 “ tion) was painful to himself as well as to  
 “ her, yet at last he had a more easy admis-  
 “ sion, which could be no other way than in  
 “ the meatus urinarius. It seems something  
 “ uncommon,

“ uncommon, that her urinary passage should  
 “ so dilate itself, as to let in the erected pe-  
 “ nis, by no more than the force of an erec-  
 “ tion could afford. This history evinces,  
 “ that this woman’s hymen was not only a  
 “ strong membrane, and could make resist-  
 “ ance to that force which overcame the mea-  
 “ tus urinarius, and sphincter of the bladder,  
 “ which is considerably strong, but by ad-  
 “ mitting of so great a dilatation, as to hang  
 “ out extra pudendum, shews, that the struc-  
 “ ture of it is fibrous, and consequently ca-  
 “ pable of great distentions. There was an-  
 “ other young woman, who laboured under  
 “ the same misfortune of having an obsti-  
 “ nate hymen, insomuch, that her husband,  
 “ though a healthful strong young man, could  
 “ make no penetration; but she chose rather  
 “ to have her marriage disannulled than in-  
 “ dure the operation, being deterred by the  
 “ shame of exposing her body, and the dis-  
 “ courses that may be raised upon it; for that  
 “ a lady’s being reviewed by the judge’s or-  
 “ der at Paris, by the most noted physician  
 “ and surgeon there, upon a contest about her  
 “ virginity, gave occasion for their fans and  
 “ snuff-boxes being painted afterwards with  
 “ indecent postures.”

THESE observations of Mr. Cowper are  
 no way unnatural, but are supported by fre-  
 quent experience; but I cannot give credit  
 to Montius, when he tells us, that a wo-  
 man who had an uncommon large clitoris,

but who, nevertheless, had brought forth several children, often ravished her own maid-servants, and more than once got them with child. This is somewhat similar to the account we meet with in the Scottish trials of a young woman, who got her master's daughter with child, of which she was convicted, condemned, and executed. But we need not be surprized at such credulity and injustice, when we reflect how very lately innocent women have been accused, convicted, and put to death for witchcraft. Our enlightened age should equally explode both these impositions, which might be well suited to the barbarous times of ignorance and superstition.

FROM what has been said, let every female consider the imminent danger to which they expose themselves, and the dreadful accidents that arise from these unnatural and filthy practices, as besides all the horrors and diseases to which the male sex are exposed by self-pollution (and which they are required to peruse for their own advantage, as it would be unnecessary to repeat them here) they unavoidably break down the barrier of virginity, which must be detected by their husband whenever they marry; and indeed frequently occasion such extraordinary bearings down of the clitoris, as render them incapable of coition with them. It were, therefore, to be wished, that every woman, who is so viciously disposed, as to defile herself, or let herself be defiled.

ed by another, might meet with as obstinate a hymen as Mr. Cowper's patient, a hymen inflexible to every unnatural instrument that might promise her the gratification of her lust.

## SECTION V.

*Of the disorders incident to the female sex,  
and the most approved methods of cure.*

**A**FTER what has been said concerning the filthy, shameful, and destructive practices of the women, by themselves, or amongst each other, which occasion such a variety of evils and disorders, it were but justice to the sex to own, that, from their natural formation and disposition, and the incidental casualties attending pregnancy and child-bearing, they are subject to many afflictions in various respects, analogous to those mentioned in the former section, and from which the men are entirely exempted; and therefore I think it necessary to explain myself upon these heads in this section.

THE whites are a foul excretion from the womb, commonly attendant upon weak women, oftentimes after hard labour, sometimes during pregnancy, and frequently in a virgin state. This disorder is a distillation of a variety of corrupt humours through the womb, flowing from different parts of the body. This oozing is of many colours, sometimes blackish, yellowish, greenish, reddish, and bluish. Having no periodical flux, as the regular menses, its returns are disorderly and uncertain.

PHYSICIANS

PHYSICIANS attribute the cause of this disorder sometimes to a general weakness or cacochymia ; and sometimes to a partial debility, as in the liver, which by the inability of the sanguinificative faculty, occasions a generation of corrupt blood. In this case the matter is reddish, when the gall is remiss in its office, not drawing away the cholerick superfluities which are engendered in the liver. When the spleen does not sufficiently perform its office in cleansing the blood of the dregs and excrementitious parts, it then is blackish. Sometimes it is occasioned by catarrhs in the head, or from any other member that is in a disordered state. When the flowing is whitish, the cause resides in the reins or the stomach : if in the reins, it is occasioned by their being overheated, which causes the spermatic matter, by reason of its tenuity, to flow involuntarily : but when the stomach is the seat of the complaint, it is occasioned by crude and vitiated matter remaining there undigested, by reason of melancholy, or some stomachic complaint ; and this vitiated matter is communicated to the womb by the liver, or instead of being appropriated to chyle.

If this disorder be occasioned by the distillation of the brain, let the patient take syrup of betony, stæchas, and marjoram, and purge with pillococh. Take the juice of sage, hyssop, betony, nexelle, with one drop of oil of cloves, and a little silk cotton, with which make napalia. Take *elect. dianth. aromat. rosar.*

*far. diambre diamoci dulcis*, of each one dram; of nutmeg, half a dram; with sugar and betony water, make lozenges, which are to be taken night and morning. Half a dram of *auriæ Alexandrinæ* going to bed, will also be useful.

IN case the oozing is of a reddish colour, phlebotomy in the arm is proper; otherwise apply ligatures to the arms and shoulders. Galen prescribes a friction of honey to the upper parts.

IF the disorder proceed from crudities in the stomach, or from a cold disordered liver, take every morning a decoction of *lignum sanctum*; and a purgation of pill. de agarico, de hermodact. de hiera diacolocynthid. foedita agragrativæ. Take of elect. aromat. ros. two drams; citron pills dried, nutmeg, long-pepper, of each one scruple, diagalinga one dram, fantali alba, ligni aloes, of each half a scruple, sugar six ounces, and with mint-water make lozenges of them, which are to be taken after meals. When the disorder arises from the liver, and there is at the same time a repression of the stomach, emetics are eligible, and they may be composed of three drams of the elect. of diaaru. Some physicians also prescribe the dieurical method, with phosolinum, opium, &c.

WHEN the oozing arises from melancholious, prepare with syrup of maidenhair, epithimum,

epithimum, polipody, burrage, begloss, fumetory, hart's-tongue, and syrup bystantinum, which must be prepared without vinegar, otherwise it will rather increase the disorder, than assist nature in its removal. The proper pills for purgation, are pilulæ eumariæ, pilulæ indæ, pilulæ de lap. lazuli, dasena, and confectio hameigh. Of stamp't prunes take two ounces, fenna one dram, epithimum, polipody, fumetory, of each one dram and an half, four dates one ounce, with endive water, make a decoction, take of it four ounces, to which add confectiō hamich three drams manna three drams, orellsi, pil. indat. phil. fætidarum, agarici trochiscati, one scruple each, lap. lazuli, five grains, with syrup of erithimum, make pills, one of which is to be taken hebdomedally.

WHEN the cause of the flux is cholerick, prepare with syrup of endive, violets, succory, roses, and purge with mirabolans, manna, rhubarb, and cassia. Of rhubarb take two drams, anniseed one dram; cinnamon one scruple; infuse them in six ounces of prune broth; add to the straining of manna an ounce, to be taken secundem artem. Take of spiciecum diatrion santalon, diatragacant. frig. diarrhod. abbatis, diaconit, of each one dram, sugar four ounces, and with plantain water make lozenges.

BUT particularly let the womb be cleansed from corrupt matter, and be strengthened;  
for

for the cleansing whereof make injections of the decoction of betony, fetherfew, mugwort, spikenard, bistort, mercury, sage, adding thereto sugar, oil of sweet almonds, of each an ounce. The womb should be strengthened with trochisks made in the following manner: take of myrrh, fetherfew, mugwort, nutmegs, mace, amber, ligni aloes, storax, red roses, of each one ounce, with mucilage of tragacanth. The trochisks being thus prepared, cast them on the coals, and smother the womb therewith. Likewise fermentations for the womb may be used, made of red wine, after mastich, fine bole, balustia, and red roses have been decocted therein. The best is a dry regimen, this distemper being occasioned by phlegmatic and crude humours. Too much sleep is also pernicious; and, on the other hand, moderate exercise is eligible.

I HAVE been the more circumstantial in prescribing for the cure of this disorder, as it is more general than may be thought, and is, indeed, concomitant with a weak or over delicate constitution: therefore ladies of this complexion should pay the greatest attention to removing the complaint before it makes too great a progress. To this end, I would have every female who finds herself subject to this affliction examine strictly, whether or not her suspicions are well founded, and to keep the parts particularly clean, by washing with luke-warm water, at least every other day. Besides the satisfaction it must afford

every female to know the real situation of her own body, and, if disordered, timely to remedy it, there is nothing which is more productive of health in this respect; and, as a proof of it, an additional gratification will arise therefrom in the act of copulation, and it will greatly tend to the improvement of their complexion. The disorders relative to the monthly courses are so very analogous to the former, that many have called the whites the false courses, though, in fact, they arise from a different source. Nature has made provision for the nourishment of children during their recess in the womb of their mother, by that redundancy of blood which is natural to all women, and which flowing out at certain periods of time, when they are not pregnant, are from thence called terms, and menses, from their monthly flux of excrementitious and unprofitable blood. As to this flux being excrementitious, is to be understood only with regard to the redundancy and overplus of it, as it is in no other way an excrement than with respect to quantity, being, in point of quality, as pure and incorrupt as any blood in the veins; and this appears by its final destination, the propagation and conservation of mankind; as also by its generation, being the superfluity of the last aliment of the fleshy parts. These monthly purgations usually commence about the fourteenth year, and continue to the forty-fifth, but not without frequent intervening suppressions, which are sometimes natural, and sometimes morbid. They are natural in pregnant women, and those who give suck; but  
when

when morbid, they are occasioned by an interruption of that accustomary evacuation of blood which should monthly flow from the matrix, and which proceed from the matter being vitiated. The cause is, in this case, either internal or external: the internal cause either instrumental or material, in the blood, or in the womb. The blood may be faulty two ways, in quantity, or in quality: in quantity, when it is so consumed, that there is not an overplus left, as in viragoes, and all other virile women, who, through their heat and strength of nature, digest and consume all their best nourishment. The blood may also be consumed, and the terms suppressed by too much bleeding at the nose; likewise by a flux of the hemorrhoids, by a dysenteria, evacuations, chronical and continual disorders. And the matter may also be vicious in quality, as when sanguineous, phlegmatical, bilious, or melancholious; each of these, if they offend in grossness, will cause an obstruction in the veins. The defect may likewise, for various reasons, reside in the womb, as, by the narrowness of the veins and passages, by aposthumes, tumours, ulcers, and by overmuch cold and heat, the one vitiating the action, the other consuming the matter: also by an evil composition of the matter; likewise by an evil composition of the uterine parts, by the neck of the womb being turned aside, and sometimes, though but rarely, by a membrane or excrescence of flesh growing about the womb. The external cause may be heat or dryness

dryness of the air, immoderate walking, great labour, violent motion, whereby the matter is so consumed, and the body is so exhausted, that there is no redundant blood remaining to be expelled; whence it is recorded of the Amazons, that being active, and always in motion, they had little or no monthly fluxes. It may also be caused by cold, and most frequently is so, the blood being thereby rendered vitious and gross, condensing and binding up the passages, that it cannot flow forth. If the suppression be natural, and caused by conception, it may be known by drinking of honey and water after supper, going to bed; for if, after taking it, the woman feel a bearing pain about the navel, and the lower parts of the belly, it is a sign she hath conceived, and that the suppression is natural. If she does not find this effect from drinking of the honey and water, she may conclude it to be vitious, and should immediately endeavour to promote the return of the menses, in the manner hereafter prescribed; otherwise the effects may be very dangerous, as this suppression may occasion swimmings, faintings, intermission of pulse, obstructions, chachexies, jaundice, dropsies, hardness of the spleen, epilepsies, apoplexies, phrensy, melancholy, &c. Evacuations are in this case proper; and therefore in the middle of the menstrual period, it will be proper to open the liver vein; and for the reversion of the humour two days after the usual evacuation, open the saphena vein of both feet; and if the repletion be not great, apply  
cupping

cupping glaffes to the legs and thighs. After phlebotomy, the humours muſt be prepared, and made flexible with ſyrup of ſtoechas, hare-hound, hyſſop, betony, maidenhair, mugwort, and fumitory; then let a bath be made of rue, fetherfew, marjoram, ſavin, bay leaves, pennyroyal, camomile, and juniper berries. After which take of the leaves of nep, betony, ſuccory, maidenhair, of each one handful, make a decoction, of which take three ounces; ſyrup of mugwort, ſuccory, maidenhair, mix of each half an ounce; and when the patient comes out of the bath, let her drink it all; then purge with the following pill, *de agaric, elephang. coch. fœtid.* Galen, in this caſe, commends *pilula de hiera cum colycintida*; as being proper to purge the offending humour; they are calculated to open the paſſages of the womb. If the patient's ſtomach be overcharged, let her take a vomit; but let it be prepared in ſuch a manner, as to operate alſo as a cathartic, leſt the humours ſhould be too much turned back, by working only upwards; wherefore take of trochiſk of agaric two drams, infuſe them in three ounces of oximel, in which diſſolve benediſt. laxat. half an ounce, and of the electuary of diaſarum one ſcruple, which is to be taken as a purgative. When the humour hath in this manner been purged, more efficacious and forcible remedies may be applied, ſuch as the extract of mugwort one ſcruple and a half, muſk ten grains, trochiſks of myrrh one dram and an half, rinds of caſſia, parſley-ſeed, caſtor, of each

each one scruple, to be taken with the juice of smallage, or going to bed. The lower parts should also be administered to by fumigation, pessaries, unctions, injections, and infusions; make suffumigations of amber, galbanum, melhantum, bay-berries, mugwort, cinnamon, nutmegs, cloves, &c. make pessaries of figs, and the leaves of mercury, bruised, and rolled up with lint; make injections of the decoctions of mercury, betony, origin, mugwort, and figs, and inject it into the womb with a sponge. For unction, take ladant, oil of myrrh, of each two drams, oil of lillies, almonds, capers, camomile, of each half an ounce, and with wax make an unguent to anoint the place. The patient should also remain in a dry warm air; should not sleep much; but, on the other hand, she should use moderate exercise, especially before meals, which should consist of attenuating food.

THE overflowing of the menses is a disorder directly opposite to that which I have just been speaking of. This complaint is a sanguineous excrement, consisting only of blood, and proceeding from the womb, and exceeding in time and quality. The cause of this overflowing is either external or internal. The external cause may be the heat of the air, the lifting or carrying heavy burthens, unnatural child-births, falls, &c. The internal cause may be threefold; in the matter, instrument, or faculty. The matter, which is the blood, may be vitious two ways; first, in quantity,

quantity, being so much, that the veins are not able to contain it. Secondly, in quality, being adust, sharp, or unconcocted. The instruments, that is to say, the veins, are faulty, by the dilatation of the orifice, which may be caused two ways, by the heat of the constitution, climate, or season, heating the blood, whereby the passages are dilated, and the faculty so much weakened, that it cannot retain the blood. Secondly, by falls, blows, violent motions, breaking of veins, &c. If it comes by the breaking of a vein, the body is sometimes cold, the blood flows forth on heaps, and that suddenly, accompanied with great pain. If it be occasioned by heat, the orifice of the veins being dilated, there is little or no pain attending it, yet the blood flows faster than it doth in an erosion, and not so fast as in a rupture. If it arise from an erosion, or sharpness of blood, she feels a great scalding in the passage; and in this case it differs from the other two, in its flowing not so suddenly nor so copiously as in those. If it be occasioned by the weakness of the womb, she has an aversion to copulation even in the very act. If it proceed from the blood, drop some of it on a cloth, and when it is dry, the quality may be judged from the colour. When choleric, it will be yellowish; if melancholy, blackish; if phlegmatic, waterish and whitish. The cure of this complaint consists in three things; first, the repelling and carrying back the blood; secondly, the correcting and taking away the fluxibility of the matter; and, thirdly,

thirdly, the corroborating the veins or faculties. In the first case, to promote a regression of the blood, phlebotomy in the arm will be useful, and such a quantity of blood may be taken away as the strength of the patient will permit, which, however, should not be done at once, but at different periods, the spirits being thereby less weakened, and the retraction so much the greater. The cupping glass should be applied to the liver, that the reversion may be in the fountain, moderated with cathartics. Astringents are also necessary to correct the fluxibility of the matter. When it is occasioned by the acrimony of the blood, it should be considered whether the erosion be by salt phlegm, or adust colour: if by the first, prepare wormwood, rosin, citron peel, and succory, with syrup of violets; and the following purgative should also be taken; mirabolans, cherbul, half an ounce, trochics of agaric one dram, with which make a decoction in plantain water, adding thereto syrup rosat. lax. three ounces to make a potion. When by adust colour, prepare the body with syrup of roses, myrtles, sorrel, and purslain, mixt with plantain water, knot-grass, and endive; and then the following purgative potion should be taken; rinds of myrabolans, and rhubarb, one dram each, cinnamon fifteen grains, infused in endive water, with the straining pulp of tamarinds and cassia, half an ounce each, and the syrup of roses one ounce. If the blood be waterish and unconcocted, as it is in dropical cases, and flow, by reason of its  
tenuity,

tenuity, it will be necessary to draw off the water; and to which end it will be proper to purge with agaric, elaterium, and colocintida. Sweating is also very proper in this case, as the offending matter is thereby taken away, and the motion of the blood is carried to the outward parts. For this purpose cardimom water, with mithridate, or the decoction of guaiacum, saffraſas, and ſarſaparilla, are very fit. The gum of guaiacum is alſo a great ſudorific. If the blood flows from the breaking of a vein, without any evil quality of itſelf, ſtrengtheners only ſhould in this caſe be applied; for which purpoſe a ſcruple of bole armoniac, a dram of treacle, half an ounce of conſerve of roſes, with ſyrup of myrtle, make an excellent electuary. In caſe the flux is of long continuance, two drams of maſtich, a dram of olibani, and one tyoch de careble, with one ſcruple of balauſtium, made into powder, and with the ſyrup of quinces formed into pills, will be ſalutary.

THERE is another diſorder attending the menſes, which is their irregularity. When they come before their time, there is a depraved excretion, which often ſupplies their place at the expected periods; and in this caſe they return twice a month. The cauſe in this caſe reſides in the blood, which ſtirs up the expulſive faculty in the womb, and ſometimes in the whole body, and is frequently occaſioned by the patient's diet, which increaſing the blood too much, renders it too ſharp or too hot;

hot; and in case the retentive faculty of the womb be weak, and the expulsive faculty strong, and of a quick sense, they are brought forth the sooner by means of a fall, a blow, or some violent passion, which the person afflicted can account for. If it be occasioned by heat, thin and sharp humours, the whole body is disordered. The looseness of the vessels, and the weakness of the retentive faculty, is known from a moist and relaxed habit of body. It is, in this case, more troublesome than dangerous; but is pernicious to conception; and the cure is therefore necessary to all, but particularly those who are desirous of propagating their species, the satisfaction resulting from which, few women are, indeed, willing to forego. If, therefore, they come too soon from the faculty, provoked by too great a plethory, phlebotomy, and a spare diet, should be used, with much exercise. If it arise from the sharpness of the blood, good diet and medicines are necessary, with bathing in iron-water. When it is occasioned by the retentive faculty, and the looseness of the vessels, gentle astringents are the properest. The courses may flow after their usual time, by reason of the thickness of the blood, the smallness of the quantity, the straightness of the passage, or weakness of the expulsive faculties. If these causes should all concur, too much care cannot be taken to remove them speedily. If the blood does not abound in such a quantity as to excite nature to expel it, its purging must necessarily be deferred till there be

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enough;

enough ; and if the blood be thick, the passage stopt, and the expulsive faculty weak, the menses must needs be out of order, and the purging of them retarded. To remove these complaints, then, if the quantity of blood be but small, she should live well as to diet, and take but little exercise. If the blood be thick and foul, it should be thinned, and the humours mixed therewith be evacuated: wherefore, it is proper to take purgatives after the courses, and to use calamints. Fumes, pessaries, and the application of cupping-glasses, without scarification, to the inside of the thighs, are also necessary. The legs should likewise be rubbed, the ancles scarified, and the feet held in warm water, four or five days before the courses come down. Proper applications are also necessary to be made to the pudendum, in order to provoke the flowing of the menses, some time before they are expected. A married woman cannot do better, in this case, than to excite her husband to perform pretty frequently conjugal duty.

THE last disorder which I shall mention, peculiar to the women, is the falling of the womb, which is not only extremely troublesome, but is also a hindrance to conception. The womb will sometimes descend as low as the knees. This is occasioned by the ligaments, which unite it to the other parts, being out of order. There are four ligaments, two above, broad and membranous, which come from the peritonæum, and two below, which  
are

are nervous, round, and hollow. The womb is also bound to the great vessels by veins and arteries, and to the back by nerves. The womb changes its place, when it is drawn another way ; and when the ligaments are loose, its own weight bears it down. It is drawn on one side when the menstrui are hindered from flowing, and the veins and arteries, which go to the womb, are full. If there be a *mole* \* on one side, the liver and spleen will cause it; the liver veins on the right side, and the spleen on the left, being more or less replenished. Some physicians are of opinion, that this disorder arises from the solution of the connection of the fibrous neck, and the parts adjacent. Be this as it may, with women in the dropsy, the falling of the womb is occasioned by the saltness of the water. When there is a little tumour, like the skin stretched

\* *A mole*, is a false conception, or lump of flesh, burthening in the womb. Some are of opinion, that it is produced by the woman's seed going into the womb without the man's ; but this can only mean, if any thing, that some of the ova have gained admittance into the womb, by masturbation, or some such filthy practice. Other physicians are of opinion, that it is engendered of the menstrual blood ; but in this case it would follow, that maids, by having their courses stopt, would be subject to this accident ; but this has never yet been proved. The real cause of this carious conception proceeds from both the man and the woman ; from corrupt and barren seed in the man, and from the menstrual blood in the woman, both mingled together in the cavity of the womb ; and nature finding herself weak, yet endeavouring to maintain the perpetuity of her species, labours to bring forth such a vicious conception rather than none ; and, being incapable to produce a living creature, generates a lump of flesh.

within or without the pudendum, or a weight felt about the privities, these are symptoms of the falling of the womb. When there is a tumour like a goose's egg, and a hole at the bottom, great pain is at first felt in the parts to which the womb is fastened; such as the loins, the bottom of the belly, and the os sacrum, which is occasioned by the breaking or stretching of the ligaments; but the pain some time after abates, and an impediment in walking succeeds. Blood will sometimes issue from the breach of the vessels, and the urine and excrements are no longer voided, in which a fever and convulsion will ensue, which frequently prove of the most fatal tendency, more especially if the patient be pregnant. This disorder should be treated as follows: First, put up the womb, before the air alter it, or it be swollen or inflamed; for which purpose a clyster is necessary to remove the excrements. The patient should then be laid upon her back, with her legs asunder, her thighs raised up, and her head down, when the tumour should be thrust in, but without violence. In case it be swollen by alteration or cold, foment it with the decoction of mallows, althea, line, fenugreek, camomile-flowers, bay-berries, and anoint it with oil of lillies and hens grease. If there be an inflammation, it must not be thrust up, but frightened in, by placing a red hot iron before it, having first sprinkled upon it the powder of mastic and frankincense. When it is replaced, the patient should lie with her legs stretched one upon the other for  
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eight or ten days. A pessary of cork or sponge, in the shape of a pear, dipped in sharp urine, or the juice of acacia, with powder of sanguis, galbanum, and bdellium, should be put into the womb. A cupping-glass, with a great steam, should be applied to the navel or paps, or to both kidneys; and the following plaister should be laid to the back: opoponix, two ounces, liquid storax, half an ounce, mastic, frankincense, pitch, and bole, two drams each, formed into a plaister with wax. Fomentations and astringents of bramble leaves, plantain, horse-tails, thistles, of each two handfuls; worm-feed, two pugils, and half an ounce of pomegranate flowers boiled in water; and an injection should also be used made as follows: comfrey-roots, an ounce, rupture-wort, two drams, yarrow, mugwort, of each half an ounce, boiled in red wine. The womb should be strengthened with hart's-horn, bays, one dram of each, and myrrh half a dram, made into powder for two doses, which are to be given in sharp wines. Rollers and ligatures, as for a rupture, are proper to keep it in its place; and pessaries should be put into the bottom of the womb, in order to force it to remain in its replaced state. There are some physicians, it is true, who are of opinion, that they are prejudicial to conception; but the majority recommend them, justly imagining, that they neither prevent conception, or occasion any injury whatever to the genital parts of the female; but, on the contrary, that they not only cure the disorder, but promote genera-

tion by their retentive influence. The patient's diet should be drying, astringent, and glutinous; such as quinces, pears, green-cheese, rice; and consequently red wine is the properest, avoiding all summer fruits.

I FIND, in madam Fouquet's collection of charitable remedies, the following receipt, which is stiled, a sovereign plaister for the disorders of the matrix, &c.

CERUS, half a pound, minium, one pound, Genoa soap, ten ounces, oil of olives, two pounds. Put the minium and the cerus in a pan upon the fire; continue stirring the same, till they are well incorporated and united together; then cut the soap in small bits, and put it in piece by piece, keeping the contents of the pan continually stirring; let it do over a middling fire, till such time as it become grey, or a chesnut colour; take care that nothing boils over, whilst it is boiling, as these ingredients swell a good deal; and continue constantly stirring till it be boiled enough; when it is of a good consistence, take it off the fire, and stir it still it be cold, when rolls are to be made of it; and care should be taken, not to handle them with wet hands.

WHEN there is occasion to use this plaister, it must be spread upon linnen, or leather; but, if upon leather, care must be taken that it has no scent.

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IF the ligaments of the womb are relaxed, and a bearing down ensues, it should be applied to the navel, the patient remaining in bed two days, and keeping it on, till such time as she be cured : it should, however, be taken off at the end of a fortnight, the place wiped, and another plaister put on, remaining without any bandage.

IF a woman, when brought to bed, has any difficulty of having the after-birth brought away, this plaister will be greatly efficacious in performing it, by being put upon the navel, and leaving it in the manner above prescribed. To which is added, there is a very illustrious example of a cure performed by the application of this plaister.

IF a lying-in woman, or any other, or a maid, has too great a flux of the menses, this is a sovereign remedy, by applying it to the navel, as above.

IF a woman, or a young girl, has not a sufficient flux of her monthly courses, or there is an entire suppression of them, this plaister should be used ; and, in this case, it should be placed beneath the navel.

## SECTION VI.

*Of the most practical and approved methods of cure for the disorders incident to excessive venery, or self-pollution.*

**H**IPPOCRATES says, that when a patient has exhausted himself by too much indulgence, either of amorous pleasure, or even masturbation, and when he has those symptoms already described, we should apply fomentations all over his body ; then give him an emetic ; repeat it, in order to purge his head ; then a purgative. “ The cure should  
 “ be begun in spring. After the purgative,  
 “ give him scummed, or ass’s milk ; the cow  
 “ milk for forty days. Whilst he drinks the  
 “ milk, he should eat no meat ; and at night  
 “ he should take water gruel. After leaving  
 “ off milk, he should eat the most tender  
 “ meats, beginning with a small quantity only. By this means he will recover his flesh.  
 “ For a whole twelvemonth he should avoid  
 “ every kind of debauchery, all venereal practices, and every other immoderate exercise ;  
 “ and in his walks, he should equally avoid  
 “ cold, and being in the sun.”

BOERHAAVE says, that these disorders are always extremely difficult to cure, as they seldom make their appearance till such time as  
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the body is weakened, and remedies can be no longer efficacious. However, the following, he continues, are the most likely to succeed. A dry regimen, consisting of birds, beef, mutton, veal, kid, roasted rather than boiled; a small quantity of good beer; a little wine of the strengthening sort. Then much exercise, gradually increased, should be used, till the patient is fatigued; and this exercise should be taken fasting; afterwards frictions, with perfumed flannels, should take place, upon the reins, the abdomen, the buttocks, and scrotum, regularly night and morning. And, lastly, half a dram of the following opiate should be taken every two hours in the day.

*R. Terræ japon. dr. 4. opopanax dr. 5. cort. peruv. dr. 6. conf. rosar. rubr. unc. 1. obiban dr. 11. succ acac. unc. ss. syrup. kerm. q. f. f. l. a. cond. with half an ounce of medical wine.*

*R. Rad. cariophyll. ment. pœn. mar. aa. unc 1. cort. rad. cappar. tamarisc. aa. unc 1. ss. lign. agalloch. veri unc 1. vin. gall. alb. lib. 6. f. l. a. vin. med.*

THESE prescriptions being regularly followed, the patient may, probably, be cured in about two months.

HOFFMAN writes upon this subject, " That all remedies should be avoided that are not fit for weak persons, and which

“ may weaken a body already enervated ;  
 “ such are all astringents, those that are too  
 “ cooling, saturnine, nitrous, and acid, and  
 “ particularly narcotics ; they are all prejudi-  
 “ cial in cases of this nature, notwithstanding  
 “ which they are very frequently used. The  
 “ object in view, continues he, is to restore  
 “ strength, and to give the fibres that tone  
 “ which they have lost ; therefore, warm vo-  
 “ latile medicines, aromatics, such as have a  
 “ strong and agreeable smell, are improper in  
 “ this case ; but mild aliments that tend to  
 “ repair that nutritive gelatinous substance,  
 “ which immoderate evacuations have de-  
 “ stroyed, as beef, veal, and chicken broth,  
 “ with a little wine, common spice, salt,  
 “ nutmeg, and cloves. And it should be in  
 “ general observed, that all remedies which  
 “ promote perspiration, and animate the lan-  
 “ guid tone of the fibres, will be of further  
 “ assistance.”

THE following decoction and injection have been successfully used.

## DECOCTION.

*R. Flor. succat. lamii. alb. mpl. 6. radic.*  
*usper et galang. aa. unc 2. rad. bistort. unc 1.*  
*rad. osmund. regal. unc 2. flor. ros. rubr. mpl.*  
*4. ichthyocoll. unc 2.*

*Scissa. tus. mixt. cum aquæ quart. 8. ad*  
*quartæ part. evaporat. quoquant. A quart*  
*whereof to be taken daily.*

- INJEC-

## I N J E C T I O N.

*R. Saccari saturni, vitriol alb. alum, rup.  
aa dr. i. aq. chalyb. fabror. pint. i. ꝯ. per  
dies decem igne arenæ digerantur. add spir. vin.  
camphr. cochl. 3.*

M. STORK is of opinion, that patients, in this situation, should be treated in the following manner: “ First, they should be fed with  
“ nutritious broths; water gruel, rice, or  
“ barley, boiled in broth or milk, are also  
“ very essential, care being taken not to load  
“ the stomach with them, but their use to be  
“ frequent. If the stomach should be so  
“ weak, as it sometimes happens, when the  
“ disorder has made great progress, that it  
“ cannot retain this sort of food, without be-  
“ ing greatly oppressed, the patient should  
“ have a wet-nurse, and suck her breast.  
“ This has sometimes been attended with  
“ success in the most dangerous cases. The  
“ relaxed fibres are, in some measure, restor-  
“ ed to their tone, by the use of wine im-  
“ pregnated with steel, bark, and cinnamon.  
“ As soon as the patient has got strength  
“ enough to walk, it is very beneficial for  
“ him to go into the open air, in a hilly coun-  
“ try.”

THE best meats are those that are roasted by a slow fire, or gently boiled in their juice. They may consist of veal, young mutton, young beef, fowls, pigeons, partridges, and

the like : and the best kind of aliment is milk. Such liquors should be refrained from as tend to increase weakness and relaxation, diminish the small digestive powers that remain, and communicate acrimony to the humours ; warm water, coffee, and tea, should therefore be avoided. Spirituous liquors are also pernicious. The most salutary liquor is pure spring water, mixt with wine, and the best wines are those that are the most stomatic. Beer is not good ; but mum may, in some degree, serve instead of wine, where the proper sort is wanting ; and chocolate is particularly eligible, especially for breakfast.

INHALATION, communicated from one person to another, may have its use, when the patient is particularly feeble. Capuaccio, the celebrated Italian professor, prescribed two nurses to a patient, between whom he was to lie, as well as suck their breasts ; and he recovered his strength and powers so wonderfully, that, after some months, he impregnated them both, and thereby enabled them to continue administering his milk diet. His pupil, Forestus, was so well convinced of the utility of his master's practice, that he constantly prescribed a healthy blooming nurse as a bed-fellow, to every patient troubled with the tabis dorsalis. But the danger in this case is, that the patient should fancy himself more vigorous than he really is, and endeavour too early to testify to his nurse the proofs of his recovery. A woman of prudence and  
experience

experience is, at least, therefore requisite; and she should be entirely divested of any of those passions which might prove fatal to the patient, even after his recovery; for this last reason, a red haired, or very black, woman should never be chosen upon these occasions.

THE most approved remedies in this disorder, are the cold bath, and the bark or quinquina used together. Their virtues are the same, and, being united, frequently produce the most happy effects, even when every other application has failed. They invigorate, diminish the feverish and nervous heat; they calm the irregular motions produced by the spasmodic disposition of the nervous system; they fortify a weak stomach, and dissipate its attendant complaints; they also restore lost appetite, promote digestion, and increase nutrition; they facilitate the operation of all the functions, and particularly perspiration, which renders them so efficacious in all catarrhus and cutaneous disorders. They should, however, not be used, if the patient is afflicted with internal ulcerous abscesses, inflammations, or obstructions. To these two remedies may be added steel, which is useful in all cases of weakness, and may be given either in substance or by infusion. For the same reason Spa water, as a strengthener, is much to be commended in this case. Bitters, gums, myrrh, and gentle aromatics, are proper; but the choice of these different remedies must depend upon circumstances. I have known the  
following

following pills and decoction to be taken with great success.

### PILLS.

*R. Myrrh. elect. unc ſſ. gum. galban. extr. trifol. fibr. terr. japan. aa dr. 2. ſir. cort. aur. q. ſ. f. pil. gra. 3.*

### DECOCTION.

*R. Cort. peruv. unc 2. cort. rad. capp. unc 1. cinnam. acut. dr. 2. limat. mart. in nodul. lax. unc ſſ. cum. aq. font. lib. 2. ſſ. l. a. f. decoct.*

THE pills ſhould be taken with broth, after breakfast, dinner, or ſupper, about ſeven at a time.

If quinquina is taken, it is not neceſſary that the patient ſhould confine himſelf to a milk diet, and when the wine is impregnated with bark, it does not prompt them to vomit when taken in the morning faſting; this is the proper time for it, and night for the taking of the milk. If the mineral waters are taken, it is neceſſary that ſome bottles of pure water ſhould be taken before the milk is mixed with it. If the diſorder be inveterate, it commonly degenerates into a cacochymy, which it is neceſſary to remove, before the patient's ſtrength is endeavoured to be reſtored. Evacuants are, in this caſe, abſolutely neceſſary, and are frequently very ſucceſſful. If the patient's life is in danger, recourſe muſt be had

to real cordials, such as Spanish wine, fresh eggs, succulent broths, and the like ; and flannels, heated with treacle, are very efficacious when applied to the breast. In case of a fever, the patient should not be bled, till such time as there is an indication, by the fulness and hardness of the pulse ; and it were better to be bled twice, losing small quantities each time, than to part with much blood at one time.

IN a word, those medicines which are most immediately necessary are those which are ranged under the heads of balsamics and astringents. By balsamic medicines, are meant those which comfort the nerves, strengthen the constitution, and thereby animate the patient. Among these are *flor. tilliæ lavendulæ rorismarin. pæoniæ. herb. thym. menth. vulgar majoran culaminth. cort cinnamon canell alb. aurantior. siccati, fruct. nuc. moschat.* of the animal class musk. The simple waters of cinnamon, orange peel, and common mint ; the *aq. aelexater. simpl.* the spirit of rosemary, the compound spirit of lavender, *sp. volat. aromatic. julep-e-moscho.* The tincture of cinnamon, and the essential oils of marjoram, spearmint, rosemary, lavender, and cinnamon *fyr. e cort. aurantior. coryophillor rubr.* from whence many useful remedies may be formed, and suited to various constitutions and stages of affliction.

AMONGST the class of astringents we may include, *rad. bistort. formentill, &c.* but what,

as I have said before, deserves the preference to every other internal medicine, is the *quinquina*, or *Peruvian bark*.

OF the officinal compositions, may be reckoned *conserv. prunellor. sylvestr. elixir. vitriol. acid.* the extract and simple tincture of the cort Peruv. tinct. saturnia, syrup of quinces, lemons, &c. and amongst the grateful, cooling, and salutary fruits, may be reckoned oranges, cherries, raspberries, strawberries, grapes, currants, &c. but these are to be used with moderation, and not with a milk diet.

THE external remedies must also be astringent, such as the emplastr. roborant, which is to be applied to the loins. The testicles should also be suspended in a bag, or truss, when they hang too loose, which is commonly the case in this situation; and the perinæum, the testicles, and the pubes, should be embrocated, upon going to bed, with vinegar, or cloths that have been steeped in verjuice, or vinegar should be laid on them all night.

PREVIOUS to the administering of these remedies, and making of these applications, it is necessary that the stomach and bowels should be cleansed; and therefore an emetic and a dose are proper to be taken. There is seldom occasion for more than one emetic, as the rest of the cure depends entirely on bracing medicines, and nervous ones interspersed  
with

with nourishing diet; therefore the whites of eggs mixed, and afterwards the yokes, will generally be found salutary. Tea, as I have said before, is very pernicious; but to those who have accustomed themselves to drink in a morning, or afternoon, it will be difficult immediately to leave it off; therefore as a substitute may be requisite, and in this case nothing can be better than baum and mint, in every dish of which should be infused a tea spoonful of the balsamic mixture, *ex cremor lact. vitell. ov.* with a few drops of oil of cinnamon; and the stomach will thereby be greatly assisted in its functions.

THE following julep may be taken at any time on an empty stomach; and in case of costiveness, the chewing of a little rhubarb will remove it.

### J U L E P.

*R. Ex. aq. alexiter. simp. aq. cinnamon. simp. menth, &c.* with some drops of spir. lavender. c. and *tinct. saturnia. à p. e. of elix. vitriol acid. vel. tinct. cort. peruviam.*

BUT as the cure of this disorder depends as much upon knowing what to avoid, as what to do, therefore, without a nice regularity of the non-naturals, medicines will have little or no effect: it is therefore necessary to consider the importance of the salubrity of the air; the diet, which should be analeptic and cooling;  
sleep

sleep ; exercise ; the secretions of the body ; and the necessity of chearful company, and amusements. I shall, therefore, in this place set down what Dr. Lewis says upon these heads, being at once the most concise and pertinent observations I have met with upon the subject.

“ No disease, says he, requires a greater regard to the non-naturals than the tabes dorsalis ; its attacks are early, its progress slow, but sure ; and it seems almost to be interwoven in the constitution before the patient discovers his danger ; for the appetite is generally good (*bene comedunt*, says Hippocrates.) As the air is that element by which we live, move, and have our being, the good and bad qualities of it ever stand foremost in a medical view. A clear and temperate air is universally known to be the best for continuing health ; but cold rather than a hot air seems to contribute more to the recovering a thin hectic constitution ; and a patient should habituate himself to be often in it.

“ As to diet, every thing salted, spiced, or otherwise seasoned, and all spirituous and fermented liquors, of whatever kind, ought to be religiously avoided. They accelerate the motion of the blood, and inflame the body. Water (only Bristol water) mixed with a little old Rhenish wine, in the summer season ; in the winter, red port should be made the common drink ;

“ and plain roasting or boiling is the best  
 “ cookery for the animal diet of the patient.  
 “ But among all the materials of food, there  
 “ is not any thing more beneficial than milk\*.  
 “ I have known a pint, and with some two  
 “ pints of milk, drunk in two draughts at  
 “ half an hour’s distance, warm from the  
 “ cow in the morning, and repeated in the  
 “ afternoon, become a wonderful restorative.  
 “ All the warmer months, it ought to be so  
 “ used, and to be made as much as possible  
 “ an ingredient in the other daily sustenance.  
 “ Thus, chocolate made with milk, in such  
 “ quantity as to pass easily off the stomach, is  
 “ an excellent breakfast for a tabid constitu-  
 “ tion. I knew a child, twelve years old,  
 “ in the last stage of a consumption, when  
 “ given over by a physician, recovered by the  
 “ mother’s giving her chocolate only, in  
 “ small quantities often repeated. Indeed it  
 “ is an aliment that, for weak constitutions,  
 “ cannot be too much recommended; and it  
 “ may at any time be made to fit easy on the  
 “ stomach, by diluting it with water. Be-  
 “ sides chocolate, viper broth, broths prepar-  
 “ ed with milk, rice, milk, and a variety of  
 “ other combinations, known to every fami-  
 “ ly, may be contrived to humour the palate  
 “ of the patient.

“ I HAVE not known a single instance,  
 “ where animal diet for dinner has done any

\* Purgato sursum et dorsum corpore, lac bubulum per  
 quadraginta dies bibendum exhibeto. Burneti Hippocra-  
 tes, p. 15.

“ harm ;

“ harm ; yet it will be prudent to recom-  
 “ mend such as is of easy digestion. Lamb,  
 “ veal, young mutton, fowls, &c. well roast-  
 “ ed or boiled, unattended with poignant  
 “ sauces, and swallowed with equal quanti-  
 “ ties of bread and roots together (more or  
 “ less occasionally) cannot fail of producing  
 “ laudable chyle and good nutriment, if well  
 “ digested (the criterion whereby the quantity  
 “ and quality of the meal are determined)  
 “ and will do more service in recruiting lan-  
 “ guid nature than medicine can.

“ BUT with regard to supper, the patient  
 “ is to be particularly cautioned. Nothing  
 “ but milk, warmed before the fire, and a  
 “ slice of thin toasted bread, can be allowed  
 “ without detriment ; and this ought to be  
 “ taken two hours before bed-time ; for sleep  
 “ is a time of application, not for the pre-  
 “ paration of the aliment. That nutrition  
 “ may be carried on naturally, it is necessary  
 “ that sleep should be sound and uninterrupt-  
 “ ed ; but nothing even in a state of health  
 “ is a greater impediment to repose than a  
 “ late or an animal supper, as the voluptuous  
 “ can tell. If this be the case in general,  
 “ to a person labouring under a tabes dorsalis,  
 “ the avoiding such becomes indispensably  
 “ necessary. Seminal emissions in the night  
 “ draw after them all the other symptoms.  
 “ Whether these are owing to venereal dreams  
 “ or not, they certainly will not happen so  
 “ often, if the mind, and its powers, are  
 “ composed,

“ composed, *i. e.* unconcerned in any animal  
 “ actions; for the disturbance of the imagi-  
 “ nation is thereby in a great measure cut off.  
 “ This is a truth incontestable; for I have  
 “ always found the patient to sleep more  
 “ soundly, and to escape this evacuation  
 “ more constantly, when he takes no supper  
 “ at all.

“ SLEEP little, and in due season. If the  
 “ dictates of nature be followed (and a phy-  
 “ sician is nature’s minister) we should go ear-  
 “ ly to bed, and rise early. In the night-  
 “ season, the inclemency of the atmosphere is  
 “ greatest, and our bodies, after the vigilance  
 “ and labour of the day, then least able to  
 “ resist the impression. Perspiration, the  
 “ most important of all the bodily discharges,  
 “ goes on best in bed \*. But it is absolutely  
 “ necessary to forbid a patient, afflicted with  
 “ the disease I am prescribing, to an indul-  
 “ gence in bed in the morning. The more  
 “ moderate the quantity of his sleep is, the  
 “ sweeter and more invigorating will it be.  
 “ Thus, if he lies down at ten o’clock (which  
 “ hour he should never exceed) he ought to  
 “ rise in the summer time at four or five, in  
 “ the winter time at six or seven, otherwise  
 “ he may observe as a general rule, to rise  
 “ immediately upon awaking; for a second  
 “ repose in the morning, however inclined

\* — diuturna enim parciore longe nocturne perspiratio,  
 sanctior, aphorism, explanat. auctore P. Nogues, f. 1. p. 35.

“ he may be to it, is almost always attended  
 “ with dreams ; and though this practice may  
 “ be irksome at first, custom will make it fa-  
 “ miliar and agreeable.

“ MODERATE exercise must be used, espe-  
 “ cially riding on horse-back. That the air  
 “ may be enjoyed to the best advantage, and  
 “ that the diet of the patient may be thorough-  
 “ ly digested, which will pave the way to a  
 “ natural sleep, he ought to use as much ex-  
 “ ercise as his strength will permit. Gentle  
 “ walking, in the morning in the fields, if  
 “ the season be favourable, otherwise at home,  
 “ or playing at shuttle-cock, may serve for  
 “ part ; but the best kind of exercise is that  
 “ of riding on horse-back. It is exercise  
 “ without labour ; and since the mind in the  
 “ tabes dorsalis is to be relieved, as well as  
 “ the body, the taking a long journey, by  
 “ such daily portions as to avoid extraordi-  
 “ nary weariness, whereby new objects will  
 “ continually present, is surprisingly effica-  
 “ cious ; and, if the circumstances of the pa-  
 “ tient will permit, ought ever to be recom-  
 “ mended by his physician.

“ THE secretions of the body are to be re-  
 “ gulated, if out of order. Thus, smoaking  
 “ tobacco is to be forbidden. The saliva was  
 “ not by nature designed to be thus lavishly  
 “ expended ; and though some constitutions  
 “ may bear this evacuation, it cannot be al-  
 “ lowed in the present case, since the solids  
 “ in

“ in general, being weak, the glans have  
 “ patent orifices, and the fluids are thereby  
 “ rendered liable to run off too fast. As to  
 “ the rest of the secretions, the non-naturals  
 “ being rightly observed, there is seldom any  
 “ disorder in them.

“ THE patient should be entertained with  
 “ chearful company. The last point we have  
 “ to speak to on this head, is the passions.  
 “ Physicians well know how important the  
 “ regulation of them is; for between the  
 “ mind and the body there is such a connec-  
 “ tion, that the vital and animal actions ne-  
 “ ver fail to affect one another. In the tabes  
 “ dorsalis, the patient discovers exceeding  
 “ grief and melancholy. Now, it is not  
 “ enough that they are mitigated by remedy-  
 “ ing the vice of these corporeal organs upon  
 “ which they depend; every possible means  
 “ of relief is to be sought after; and some as-  
 “ sistance may be had by exciting the opposite  
 “ passions. Thus mirthful company, and en-  
 “ gaging diversions, &c. are known to take  
 “ off the mind from gloomy thoughts and in-  
 “ mense melancholy. Here the elegant vi-  
 “ vacious harangues of the physician will do  
 “ great service. But it must be observed here,  
 “ that as the company of females is apt to ex-  
 “ cite libidinous ideas, it ought, by all means,  
 “ to be avoided. Study also is highly preju-  
 “ dicial. The patient should never be left to  
 “ himself; never suffered to read, nor have  
 “ any time to reflect on his severe fortune;  
 “ for

“ for all these oppress the nerves, sink the  
 “ spirits, and obstruct the cure.”

So far Dr. Lewis ; and I shall conclude this section in the words of the celebrated Dr. Tissot, in his Treatise upon Masturbation. “ It  
 “ would be useless to extend this piece any  
 “ farther. I have endeavoured to omit nothing that might open the eyes of young  
 “ people to all the horrors of that abyss which  
 “ they prepare for themselves. I have pointed out the most proper means of removing  
 “ those ills which they have drawn upon  
 “ themselves ; and I conclude by assuring,  
 “ that some happy cures should not delude  
 “ them. Those who are the best cured with  
 “ difficulty recover their primitive vigour,  
 “ and preserve tolerable health only by dint  
 “ of managing it. Those who remain in a  
 “ languid state, are ten-fold the number of  
 “ those who are cured ; and some examples  
 “ of persons who are but little ailing, or of a  
 “ vigorous constitution, which promoted their  
 “ recovery, should not be considered as a general rule.”

## SECTION VII.

*Of impotency in men, and barrenness in women; and the most efficacious remedies for their cure.*

THERE cannot, assuredly, be a more dreadful curse inflicted upon a man of a warm constitution, than the inability of propagating his species. If he resides in a capital city, his senses must be incessantly importuned to make some unsuccessful effort to abate that desire, so naturally implanted in him, and which he is incapable of gratifying. If his constant residence be in the country, every bird and animal that salutes his mate recalls to his mind the misery of his situation; and every blooming fair too frequently convinces him of his being a real, not a fabulous, Tantalus.

IT is true, the fair sex do not labour under such immediate cruel grievances upon this account, as being only the patient in the amorous conflict. Barrenness does not prevent their receiving those balsamic tributes, which the potent part of the male creation are capable of paying them. It must, nevertheless, be a mortifying reflection for every married woman, in this state, to consider herself incapacitated from propagating her species, and giving

ing that assistance in the nuptial association, which was its ultimate and great design. Besides, she must fall far short of those raptures which a fruitful woman is susceptible of, and can at most enjoy but a small portion of procreative bliss.

WOMEN, in some countries, are examined by matrons, before they are admitted to the nuptial bed ; and those only that are pronounced to be fruitful, are allowed to enter into the marriage-state ; and I must own, that I see no reason, without custom be allowed one, where the ladies are made so free with, why the men should not undergo as strict an inspection, especially if we consider, that when the defect is on the woman's side, she may still be made use of, and give her husband at least momentary pleasure, if she be not impenetrable : whereas, if the defect be on the man's side, she can find no relief, except it be in adultery, as it is impossible for him to communicate any satisfaction to her, or expect to convey the seed into the womb, if his yard is incapable of erection ; and this is the most certain symptom of impotency in man.

BARRENNESS is, however, more common in women than in men, by reason of the many additional bodily infirmities to which their sex is liable, and which I have already enumerated : to these may be added those causes that most frequently occasion it in men,  
namely,

namely, too early and great an indulgence in venery or masturbation.

It also sometimes happens, that impotency is occasioned in men by a deficiency and want of seed; and I think I cannot do better, than transcribe the great Boerhaave's words upon this subject, in his treatise de Viribus Medicamentorum.

“ THIS chapter, says he, consists of such  
 “ medicines as increase seed, and promote its  
 “ secretion; but we are ignorant how the  
 “ animalcules in the seed are generated.  
 “ Leeuwenhoeck tells us, they are not to be  
 “ found in any part of the body; but in the  
 “ male sperm of all animals, which is separated  
 “ in the testicles, and are like so many  
 “ tadpoles, of a prodigious number, swimming  
 “ every way in the seed, with incredible  
 “ briskness and activity: that they are not to  
 “ be found in the liquid of the prostatae is  
 “ evident from castrated animals. Now,  
 “ there are four things which augment the  
 “ seed: first, all such things as augment chyle,  
 “ milk, and blood. Milk taken in large  
 “ quantities is a great breeder of seed, and  
 “ renders persons more salacious than wine or  
 “ spices. Hence those who eat much of vegetables,  
 “ eggs, or milk, are much addicted  
 “ to venery. Secondly, all medicines which  
 “ convey a more abundant quantity of chylous  
 “ blood towards those parts, where the  
 “ genital liquid is prepared. To this purpose,

“ fomentations, bathings, frications, em-  
 “ plastics, balsams, made of spices, are very  
 “ conducive ; as also, oil of rue, and eu-  
 “ phorbium, plaisters of melilot ; these will  
 “ increase sufficiently the spermatic juice.  
 “ The following things are much commend-  
 “ ed by Italians as specifics, who are much  
 “ admirers of such delicacies, viz. all bal-  
 “ sams, emplastics, composed from sea  
 “ southernwood, buffwort, calamint, sweet-  
 “ scented dittany of Crete, leveage, which  
 “ are commended as salacious herbs ; parsley,  
 “ savine, savory, especially that of Crete ;  
 “ thyme, wild thyme, nepenthe, wild mar-  
 “ joram, as that of Crete, where animals are  
 “ most salacious ; pepper, eringo roots, hedge  
 “ mustard, are great provocatives to venery ;  
 “ as are also all compounds from these herbs,  
 “ made up in decoctions, potions, cataplasms,  
 “ and ointments. Thirdly, such things as  
 “ cause a vehement stimulation in the liquids ;  
 “ as all aromatics stimulate the nervous  
 “ juices. Thus, onions, garlick, and leeks,  
 “ are great incentives to lust, which is evi-  
 “ dent from those persons who eat them fre-  
 “ quently, as the Persians and Egyptians do,  
 “ who are much given to venery, and are  
 “ scarce satisfied with one woman. Hither be-  
 “ long all aromatic gums. Thus we see hy-  
 “ pocondriac people, to whom we have given  
 “ them for resolving obstructions, by taking  
 “ them often, become very salacious ; as myrrh,  
 “ aloes, galbanum, opponax, sagaperium,  
 “ tachamahae, bdellium, &c. also balsams,  
 “ as

“ as capavy, &c. if these be used too much,  
 “ they will cause a priapism, and excite an  
 “ abundant secretion of seed. Hither also be-  
 “ long all natural salts, except nitre, all vo-  
 “ latile salts, especially those that are oily,  
 “ and oily spirits, as of wine, which operate  
 “ chiefly by stimulation, soaps, all diuretics,  
 “ chiefly by water excepted, castoriam di-  
 “ stilled, aromatic oils, which operate two  
 “ ways, either by increasing motion, or by  
 “ irritation. Fourthly, there are specific pro-  
 “ vocatives to venery, which act upon bo-  
 “ dies not fitly disposed, as seeds of dill,  
 “ vetches, satyrion, concerning which see  
 “ Dioscorides, the brains of sparrows, and the  
 “ stones of salacious animals, as of cocks,  
 “ lambs, &c. are very much commended; as  
 “ likewise, the glandules of animals, which  
 “ are of a similar nature to the testicles, as  
 “ those which grow in the asperia arteria of  
 “ calves, all which are so beneficial, as they  
 “ generate good chyle; ultiocinus, a small  
 “ sea-fish, which, if eaten, is said to cause such  
 “ an incitement to venery, as to induce a sa-  
 “ tyriasis, or continual erection of the penis :  
 “ but I am of opinion, that the effect doth  
 “ not so much depend upon the fish, as upon  
 “ those things which are taken with it; for  
 “ it is generally eaten with pepper, salt, ga-  
 “ langal, &c. A milk diet may be proper,  
 “ because the generation of seed depends upon  
 “ good chyle.”

BESIDES what is recommended in the above chapter from Boerhaave, the following prescription will be found very efficacious in all impotent cases: Take of the best palm sack six ounces, of jelly of hartshorn three ounces, essence of ambergrease ten drops, chocolate all nut half an ounce, black pepper, powdered, one scruple, essence of satyrion twenty drops, confection of alkermes one dram, essence of cantharides twelve drops, volatile salt of vipers ten grains, white sugar candy three drams; the chocolate and sugar candy must be dissolved in the sack over the fire, but it should not boil; and when it is cold, the other things are to be added, with the yokes of two eggs. They should be mixed very well together, and drank at one or more draughts, every morning at breakfast. The testicles should at the same time be anointed with the following salutary balsam: take oil of mace, by expression, two drams, Peruvian balsam one dram, oil of nutmegs, oil of cloves, of each six drops, musk eight grains, civet ten grains, essence of cantharides, and essence of ambergrease, of each six drops; mix them well without the use of fire, and anoint the genitals therewith night and morning. The cold bath may also be used at the same time with great success.

HAVING given this advice to the men, it is time we should attend the ladies.

IN

IN the cure of barrenness, attention must be particularly paid to the cause; as this must be first removed, and then the womb strengthened, and the spirits of the seed enlivened by corroborating applications.

IF barrenness proceed from over much heat, let the patient use inwardly succory, endive, violets, water lillies, sorrel, and lettuce, with syrups and conserves made of the same; to which end, take conserves of borragé, violets, water lillies, of each one ounce; half an ounce of conserve of roses, diamargariton rigid, diatrion, santalón, of each half a dram, and with syrup of violets, or juice of citron, make an electuary. She should also take of endive, water lillies, borragé flowers, of each a handful, rhubarb, mirobolans, of each three drams, and, with water, make a decoction; add to the straining the syrup laxative of violets, one ounce, syrup of cassia half an ounce, manna three drams; all which make into a potion; take of the syrup of mugwort one ounce, syrup of maidenhair two ounces, pulv. elect. trifoliant, and make all up into a julep; apply to the reins and privities fomentations of the juice of lettuce, violets, roses, mallows, vine leaves, and nightshade. She should also anoint her privities with the cooling ointment of galls. Baths are also good for her to sit in. The air she perspires should be clear; her garments thin; her food lettuce, endive, succory, and barley; but she should eat no hot meals, nor drink any strong wines. Repose, as well cor-

poreal as mental, is necessary for her; and she should use but little copulation.

WHEN barrenness is occasioned by the predominancy of blood extinguishing the power of the seed, which may be known by her desiring venery, and receiving no pleasure in the act of copulation, even at the critical instant of the man's emission; by her courses being phlegmatic, thick, and slimy, and not flowing regularly; in this case she should take syrup of calamint, mugwort, betony, of each one ounce, water of pennyroyal, feverfew, hyssop, sage, of each an ounce, made into a julep. She should also take every morning two spoonfuls of cinnamon water, with one spoonful of mithridate. She should likewise take of oil of anniseed one scruple and a half, jasmini, diacalam, both diamosci, diagalang, of each one dram, sugar four ounces, made with water of cinnamon into lozenges, a dram and an half of which should be taken twice a day, two hours before meals. Cupping glasses should be fastened to her hips and belly, and she should take storax, calamint one ounce, mastic, cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg, lignum aloes, frankincense, of each half an ounce, musk ten grains, ambergrease half a scruple, and with those make them into a confection, to be divided into four parts, one whereof is to be formed into a pomum doratum to smell to, if she be not inclined to hysterics; the second should be made into a mass of pills, three of which should be taken every night; the third into a pessary, and put into the

womb ; and the fourth into a fumigation for the matrix.

WHEN barrenness is occasioned by the faculties of the womb being weakened, and the life of the seed suffocated by too much tumidity flowing in those parts, she should, in this case, take of betony, marjoram, mugwort, pennyroyal, balm, of each one handful, root of asarum, fennel, elacampanes, of each two drams, anniseed, cumminseed, of each a dram, with a sufficient quantity of sugar and water, to form them into a syrup, three ounces of which are to be taken every morning. The following purgative pills are to be taken ; of pill extid. two scruples, diagridion two grains, spec. de costore one scruple, which are to be made up into nine pills, with syrup of mugwort. Take likewise spec. diagemmæ, diamofci, diambre, of each one dram, cinnamon one dram and a half, mace, cloves, nutmegs, of each half a dram, sugar six ounces, and with water of feverfew make them into lozenges, which are to be taken every morning. She should also take of the decoction of sassaparilla, and virga anred, with a good quantity of sage, which is an herb of so much virtue, that Cornelius Agrippa honoured it with the title of *sacra herba*, or the holy herb ; and Dodenæus, in his History of Plants, relates, that after a great plague had happened in Egypt, which had nearly depopulated the country, the surviving women were commanded to drink the juice of sage, that they might multiply the

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faster.

faster. She should also anoint her genital parts with oil of anniseed and spikenard. Trochisks are also very beneficial in smothering the womb, which should be made as follows : she should take mace, nutmeg, cinnamon, storax, amber, of each one dram, cloves, labdani, of each half a dram, turpentine, a sufficient quantity ; after which she should use an infusion to sit upon after her courses are gone, made in this manner ; take the roots of valerian and elecampane, of each one pound, of galingal three ounces, origans, lavender, marjoram, betony, mugwort, bay leaves, calamint, of each three handfuls, prepared with water.

IN case barrenness arises from the dryness of the womb, consuming the matter of the seed, the patient should take every day almonds and goats milk, extracted with honey ; she should eat frequently of the root satyrion, condited, and of the electuary of diasatyrion ; she should likewise take three sheeps heads, and boil them till the flesh is separated from the bone, then take of melilot, violets, camomile, of each a handful, and of fenugreek, linseed, and valerian root, of each a pound, and being decocted in the aforesaid broth, she should continue sitting in it up to her navel, till it become cool ; she should also take of deer's suet half an ounce, cow's marrow, styracis, liquidæ, of each a dram, oil of sweet almonds two ounces, and with silk or cotton make the same into a pessary, and inject oil of sweet almonds and melted butter.

## BARRENNESS

BARRENNESS may likewise be occasioned by remissness in the act of coition; for though there be no impediment on either side, yet if both sexes meet not in that act with equal vigour and desire, no conception can be the consequence of it. It frequently happens, that the man is too quick for the woman, or the woman too slow for the man; and therefore not being prepared to receive the seed with that delight which she ought, when it is emitted by the man, she discharges no ova, and the womb is no way benefited by the operation. In this case she should, before the act of coition, foment the pudendum with a decoction of betony, sage, hyson, and calamint, and also anoint the mouth and neck of the womb with musk and civet. The following application will also be very efficacious to strengthen the womb, as it is in this situation required: take of bay-berries, mastic, nutmeg, frankincense, cypress nuts, labdani, galbani, of each one drop, styracis, liquidæ, two scruples, cloves half a scruple, ambergrease two grains, musk five grains, with which a bit of spikenard, a pessary should be made. Take also of red roses, frankincense, lapidis hematitis, of each half an ounce, sanguis draconis, fine bole, mastic, of each two drams, nutmeg and cloves, of each a dram, spikenard half a scruple, and with oil of wormwood make a plaister for the lower parts of the belly. She should also eat of the eringo roots condited, and take an injection of the juice of the roots of satyrion. She must use copulation soon after the menses:

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are ceased, conception being then most apt to take place, as the womb is thirsty and dry, and most inclinable to attract the seed, as well as retain it, by the roughness of its interior coat.

If these remedies and precautions are properly attended to, it is not to be doubted but many families, who might soon be extinct for want of heirs, may be enabled to extend their lineage to the latest posterity. But every person (whether male or female) who proposes deriving any advantage from these rules, should cautiously attend to one thing, which is, that they should not attempt to stimulate nature, when she is drained; for even if success were so far to crown their endeavours in this respect, their heirs must, being begot under these circumstances, prove only a puny issue. A man who has laboured under any complaints of an impotent kind should remember, even after he has in some degree recovered his pristine vigour, that he cannot reasonably expect to get above one child a week; and therefore, I would recommend him to confine his embraces to an hebdomedal indulgence; and his wife need not complain at this, as she will then receive them with much more gratification. Another point to be attended to, is the reciprocity of enjoyment; and a husband who is desirous of being the father of children, should be particularly curious in this respect, and not let any false modesty on his wife's part conceal the real produce of his endeavours;

vours; and as he may thereby keep an exact account, so he should never exceed, on his part, the number of times his wife has actually enjoyed coition. When there is a deficiency on her side, the fomentation prescribed above should be used with greater frequency, and in larger quantities, till such time as she has had her complete portion of blifs.

## SECTION VIII.

*Of the propriety of* AMOROUS PLEASURE.

**I**F it were necessary to prove the utility of a natural intercourse between the sexes, our own very existence, and that of posterity, would be incontrovertible reasons. Neither found philosophy, or even holy writ itself, any way discountenances it; but, on the contrary, we are particularly commanded to increase and multiply. And if, indeed, these considerations, which are so cogent, were set aside, the happy union which it promotes and rivets, the friendship it cements, and the inexpressible joy which it diffuses, would surely be sufficient argument to refute any impotent unnatural attacks upon amorous pleasure, and we must, as long as we are susceptible of the power of beauty, agree with the poet, when he says,

*Love's the most tender passion of the mind,  
The softest refuge innocence can find,  
The safe director of unguarded youth,  
Fraught with kind wishes, and secured by truth.  
Heaven in our cup this drop hath thrown,  
To make the nauseous draught of life go down.*

With regard to our health, it is most certainly necessary to many constitutions; and tho<sup>se</sup>

I would chuse to give all the force to M. Skmeider's reasoning it deserves, and allow that a great part of the semen is absorbed, and returns into the mass of blood; yet it is plain there would still remain too great a redundancy in strong robust men, if it were not carried off by some discharge, which is frequently involuntary: but surely these nocturnal emissions are contrary to the design of nature, which plainly points out their proper destination, the support of the universal chain of existence, a chain that is doubtless destroyed by this diversion of the course of inheritance; and all the sophistry in the world will never be able to evince, that the toleration of these evacuations is not equally destructive of the human species as self-pollution, since constitution and custom will instruct every man when these discharges will come about; and therefore by not anticipating them, and directing them into their proper channel, he is instrumental in destroying the human species in the same proportion as he might have become a father, by marking the just application.

THE prejudice that is occasioned to the human frame, from an undue retention of the semen, is frequently of very dangerous consequence, as a plethora and cacochymy may ensue, occasioning pains in the head, palpitations of the heart, apoplexy, lethargy, spermatic fevers, according to the different temperaments and constitutions of the persons, who by such undue continence are the cause  
of

of so much harm to themselves, and rather than obey the dictates of unerring nature, chuse by a rigorous ascetic apathy to resist her motions, thereby counteracting that great command of the Creator, of which the mind is made conscious for the propagation of the human species; and, thus obstructing the animal œconomy, justly incur the natural consequences of such premeditated violence offered to her laws.

WHEN man is arrived at the age which confers the faculty of procreating, the tender organs destined for its source become turgid by their fulness, and, by the pressure of their contained fluid, act upon the nervous fibres with such inexplicable energy, as to promote the expression of their contents, by the gratification of the universal appetite; and when once the confined semen hath been ejected, it so far dilates the excretory ducts of the vesiculæ feminales, which confined it, as to render them unable at any time afterwards to restrain it, with sufficient restriction, to resist their plenitude, when the semen is collected in such measure as to impress the nervous fibrillæ of those parts, with such sensations as excite in the imagination a desire to venery; which intention naturally arises in the minds of all persons, even the most rigid Platonist, and presents them with phantasms too powerful for the frailty of their nature to chase away, or resolution sufficient to prevent gratification. Nor would it be proper, that these de-

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desires should be entirely suppressed; for if every one could so far surmount his amorous passions, as to live in a perfect state of celibacy, and stand in no need of seminal evacuations, or have no reason to fear any disorders from its undue retention, creation would be at an end, and all the links of society which are cemented by the ties of consanguinity would be dissolved.

MARRIAGE, as it is honourable in all countries, so it has been held in great esteem from the beginning of the world among all sorts and sects of people. The Romans, and especially the wise emperor Augustus, did what they could to encourage it. The Jews did the same. The Lacedemonians, at their festivals, would not admit of any single man; and if those who were unmarried ventured to come amongst them, they were, as soon as discovered, ordered to be whipped by the women, as unprofitable members of the republic; nor were any but married men suffered to bear any office: so that throughout the world as an encouragement to matrimony, the married men were highly preferred, excused from going to the wars for the first year after marriage, and in every thing had the advantage of those that were single.

THE virtues of celibacy, it is true, have been frequently cried up, as if there were something very extraordinary contained in them; and many persons have, doubtless, believed,

lieved, that they have acted pursuant to the principles of religion, and the dictates of conscience, when they have supported this ridiculous, irrational, and unnatural doctrine: but if we proceed to examine their reasons and arguments, we shall find them to be altogether fallacious, and contrary to the intent of Providence, law, justice, and religion; and I venture to lay it down as an infallible position, that whoever compels, or enjoins the same in others, is not only guilty of a breach of the sixth commandment, which says, *Thou shalt do no murder*, but is likewise guilty as an accessary to the breach of divers other commandments, and a promoter of innumerable sins.

HENCE it plainly appears, that it is not the use, but the abuse, of coition that is criminal and dangerous; and for this reason, our law has wisely prescribed, that no man shall have more than one wife, though some men of very salacious complexions might plead in opposition, that the community and posterity are great sufferers by this regulation, as they are very capable of propagating their species more frequently than their wives are capable of being impregnated, and might particularly instance the time of their having their courses, and during their child-bearing; and to give this reasoning some colour, they might instance the Turks, and other heathenish nations, who are allowed as many wives as they can support, and who are very seldom known  
to

to be barren. But this would be opening a door for anarchy and confusion, would destroy all legitimacy and inheritance, and would be an inlet to vice and immorality.

THE great object most worthy of inquiry in this respect, is to know how far nature and inclination should be gratified, and how far restrained. Constitution, complexion, the corporeal and mental state and variations, are so many considerations to be taken in; and, after all, it will be scarce practicable theoretically to draw the line. Some men are troubled with priapisms and satyriasis's; some women with the furor uterinus: to these it would be in vain to talk of reason, nature, health, or decency. They should be first treated as patients, before they are advised as men or women. Their disorders must be cured before they are pointed out the happy medium of gratification, the just calls of nature. Others there are of both sexes, whose weakly constitutions, from various causes, but none more than those I have already had occasion to mention, to whom coition would be as fatal as arsenic; and these should neither argue upon, nor think of, the subject. Women past forty-five, and men who have no longer those testimonies of virility, which clearly notify the propriety of amorous gratification, need give themselves any concern upon the subject. But those batchelors and virgins still in the vigour of life, who, by abstinence, have brought on many disorders, the cause of  
which

which they are entirely ignorant of, cannot too soon lay aside their celibacy, and fly into each other's arms, to their mutual benefit and delight. The first will find their lethargic, supine, and inert disposition, changed to gaiety, cheerfulness, and activity. The females will no longer eat chalk, whiting, and such like things, but recover their complexion, their vivacity, and their good temper; for the green-sickness is nothing more than the want of a due circulation of the blood and juices, and a regular return of the menses.

A CERTAIN physical writer says, “ The  
 “ blood, by the superfetation of the feminal  
 “ humour, unduly accumulated for want of  
 “ sufficient room to circulate freely through  
 “ the vessels, distends the size of the same be-  
 “ yond their proper diameters, which conse-  
 “ quently impairing their tonic motion, oc-  
 “ casions an increase in the size of its moli-  
 “ culæ, and of course a remora in the circu-  
 “ lation, by reason of which the blood and  
 “ humours become glewy and tenacious, and  
 “ the whole habit bloated and cacochymic.”  
 So that there is no reason to be surprized,  
 that those who are abstemiously continent,  
 should be affected with such disorders as natu-  
 rally flow from these causes.

ON the other hand, though provident na-  
 ture, for the continuation of mankind, has  
 accompanied the business of generation with  
 a sense the most exquisitely delightful, and  
 therefore at the time of puberty, the passion  
 of

of love begins to exert itself in consequence of a copious secretion of the semen, which prompts to be discharged; yet if we attend to the consequences of venereal commerce at this time of life, we shall discover, that nature has not intended the seminal juice for that purpose only, since the act of coition, being too often repeated at that age, restrains the growth of the individual, and unnerves the man. That there is besides a benefit accruing from it to the constitution, may be collected from an observation of those appearances that arises thereon at the time of puberty. Then it is that the hairs begin to shoot at the pubes, the beard grows, the voice alters to a graver tone, muscular strength is augmented, and a more sprightly comportment accompanies them, and that the cause of these appearances is the sacculus genitalis absorbed by the lymphatic vessels, and reconveyed into the blood, there is no reason to doubt, after perusing what has been already said upon this subject. Even in more advanced life, too unlimited a gratification of venereal desires will enervate the most robust constitution. I have met with frequent examples of men, who, by condescending to their wives excessive lechery, have been, from strong athletic men, reduced to mere skeletons. A patient of mine, who was brought to death's door, and whom I suspected of having been guilty of masturbation, acknowledged, that it was all occasioned by his wife, who was, when in bed, incessantly tickling and teasing him, to prompt him to indulge her insatiable appetite;

and that she carried her obstinacy in this respect to so great a pitch, that when he was unable or unwilling to repeat the task, she has, contrary to decency, become the agent, instead of the patient, and subverted all order and disposition. Another patient in nearly the same situation, but with a much greater and more constant gleet, informed me, that his wife, to whom he had been married several years ; but being in the situation of Dr. Cooper's patient, that is, having an obstinate hymen, and whom he could never penetrate with the stiffest erection, pretended so much fondness for him, and was so jealous lest he should shed his seed upon any other object, that she constantly committed masturbation upon him every night ; and even invented many devices to excite his lust, insomuch, that she at length brought him to so emaciated a state, that she could be no longer under any apprehensions of his paying his devotions at any other altar to the Cyprian goddess ; nevertheless, habit had so gained upon her, that she persisted in her manual operations, and would certainly have put an end to his existence, if I had not immediately ordered him to quit her bed, if he valued life.

THAT women should have very extravagant passions as well as men, is not to be wondered at ; but that any man should be so far hood-winked, as to let himself be thus imposed upon, is somewhat extraordinary ; yet the sequel of this narrative is still more surprising. Upon my cautioning him against  
future

future insults of this sort, and advising him to prevail upon his wife to undergo a chirurgical operation, he undertook the task, and she submitted: he recovered his health; she was soon after pregnant; and from the time that she tasted the grateful effects of his virility, she never afterwards misapplied it; but she was rather an œconomist in love, lest she should be too easily deprived of the extatic sensations it communicated.

THE operation this lady underwent, doubtless, gave him free access into her vagina, and thereby brought her clitoris and the glans of his penis into contact, as this is the seat of delight in women. Hence it is called by Columbus, *amoris dulcedo*, the sweetness of love; and by Boerhaave, *estrum veneris*, the sting of love, as the necessary and unavoidable friction of the penis against the clitoris, in the act of coition, causes those excessive ticklings and transporting itchings to each sex, that are not to be described so well as felt, and still greater on the woman's side, when the discharge of the serous matter the woman sheds is more copious in the act, and at the summit of enjoyment; for as the penis in men, and especially the glans of it, fills, and is inflated with spirits upon a vigorous erection, and still more so in the act of emission, so does the clitoris at the same time in the woman, and which, jointly together, reciprocally produce each to the other that inexpressible satisfaction that is diffused through all the animal functions; and which, if nature had not rendered so extremely

tremely pleasing, what man, that divine animal, born for the contemplation of heavenly things, would concern himself in so filthy a thing, as is the act of coition; and what woman, indued with modesty, would submit herself to be exposed to man, and readily undergo the toil and danger of child-bearing, besides the anxiety and care of educating her children? But neither the filthiness of the act will deter men, nor the severe inconveniencies which great bellies often cause to women, nor the frequent extreme hazard of their lives when in labour, nor loss of beauty and shape, the most precious gifts they have, and which render them amiable, and admired by all, as well as beloved by those who possess them, can or will either affright or deter them therefrom; nor will any of them make that reflection, till after the act, or consider any thing before it, but the mutual pleasure they expect; and all who enjoy allow, that they receive inexpressible satisfaction by it.

FROM what has been said, I think it is clearly proved, that amorous pleasure does not only dispense the highest pitch of sublunary bliss; that it is absolutely necessary for the propagation and continuation of the human species; but that it is indispensibly requisite for the preservation of health, in every male and female of a vigorous constitution.

## SECTION IX.

*Upon the VENEREAL DISORDER.*

**T**O the many maladies which arise from copulation, we must add that which frequently occurs by promiscuous coition, and which is generally known by the name of the French disorder. The French, however, exculpate themselves from being the original communicators of this disease; and in France it is called the Neapolitan disease. Every country seems ashamed of having introduced this disorder into Europe, where it was unknown before the discovery of America: so that Columbus, by finding out a new world, brought us home a distemper, which by many is thought to be more pernicious to our constitutions, than both the Americas are advantageous to our trade and navigation.

THE error which has prevailed with many, and even with some physical people, that the leprosy and the venereal disorder are of the same nature, and therefore conclude that it is of more ancient date in Europe, than is universally believed, may easily be refuted. I shall to this end quote the words of Andreas Laurentius upon the venereal disorder. He says, “ the  
 “ leprosy is always attended with a roughness  
 “ of the skin; the venereal disease with a  
 “ smoothness. The leprosy never begins at  
 “ the pudenda, the venereal disease always.  
 “ In the leprosy the patient is not afflicted  
 “ with any pains, whereas in the venereal  
 H “ disease

“ disease he is severely tortured with them.  
 “ The skin of lepers becomes hard, black, and  
 “ callous, which appearances in venereal pa-  
 “ tients by no means occur. Leprous persons  
 “ are salacious, and subject to priapisms; while  
 “ the others, on the contrary, have an aversion  
 “ to women, as long as they are ill. In the  
 “ leprosy, the hairs of the arm-pits and groins  
 “ fall off with those of the head, which does  
 “ not at all happen in the venereal disease.  
 “ In short, the leprosy is incurable in its na-  
 “ ture; but the other is not, even when it has  
 “ been suffered to run on a long time.” To  
 which may be subjoined, that the symptoms of  
 the leprosy are heightened and increased by the  
 use of guaiacum, or mercurials; whereas the  
 venereal disorder is infallibly cured by them,  
 when properly administered.

THE physical writers of antiquity have una-  
 nimously agreed that the leprosy was usually  
 contracted by unwholesome diet, and not by  
 copulative infection; and, on the contrary, the  
 venereal disease is never contracted by any er-  
 ror in diet, but generally by coition. Hence  
 we may reasonably conclude, that these two  
 disorders are quite different in cause, nature,  
 and symptoms.

THE venereal disease was certainly never  
 known in Europe till the year 1494, at the  
 time when Charles VIII. of France laid siege to  
 Naples. Columbus returned this year from  
 Hispaniola to Spain, and imported it into  
 Europe, on board one of his ships, as many  
 historical

historical testimonies can vouch. Nevertheless, there are plausible reasons for asserting that this disorder was generally known in Europe many years prior to this æra; and to give these arguments their full force, I shall quote the statutes of Jane, queen of the two Sicilies, and countess of Provence, for the regulation of the public stews established at Avignon in 1347.

“ 1. ON the eighth of August, in the year  
 “ 1347, our good queen Jane gave leave that  
 “ a public brothel should be set up at Avig-  
 “ non; and ordered that the wenches, who  
 “ plyed there, should not walk the streets, but  
 “ keep themselves confined within the bro-  
 “ thel; and, by way of distinction, wear a  
 “ red knot upon their left shoulders.

“ 2. ITEM, If any girl has thus offended,  
 “ and persists in her offence, that the Clavi-  
 “ ger, or chief of the beadles, shall lead her  
 “ through the city by beat of drum, a red  
 “ knot hanging at her shoulder, back to the  
 “ brothel, and shall prohibit her from walking  
 “ abroad any more under penalty of being  
 “ lashed privately for the first offence; and  
 “ being whipped publicly, and turned out of  
 “ the house, for the second.

“ 3. OUR good queen orders that this brothel  
 “ shall be erected in Broken-Bridge-Street,  
 “ near the convent of the Augustine-Friars,  
 “ as far as to Peter's-gate; and that the en-  
 “ trance shall be towards the street; and the

“ door locked, that no youth may have ad-  
 “ mittance to the wenches, without leave from  
 “ the abbess or governess, who is to be chosen  
 “ every year by the directors. The abbess is  
 “ to keep the key, and advice the young  
 “ men she admits to make no disturbances,  
 “ nor frighten the wenches ; and to let them  
 “ know that in case of misdemeanor they will  
 “ not be suffered to go off securely, but be  
 “ laid under confinement by the beadles.

“ 4. THE queen commands, that on every  
 “ Saturday the women in the house be singly  
 “ examined by the abbess and a surgeon ap-  
 “ pointed by the directors ; and if any of them  
 “ has contracted any illness by their whoring,  
 “ that they be separated from the rest, and  
 “ not suffered to prostitute themselves, for  
 “ fear the youth who have to do with them  
 “ should contract their distemper.

“ 5. IF any of the wenches in the brothel  
 “ prove with child, let the abbess take care to  
 “ prevent a miscarriage, and give notice to the  
 “ directors to make provision for the child.

“ 6. LET the abbess diligently take care not  
 “ to give admittance to any person into the  
 “ brothel on the Friday and Saturday in pas-  
 “ sion week, nor on the holiday of Easter,  
 “ under the penalty of being dismissed and  
 “ whipped.

“ 7. THE queen orders that the wenches ad-  
 “ mitted into the brothel abstain from strife and  
 “ envying,

“ envying, from brawling and thieving, and  
 “ that they live lovingly together like sisters ;  
 “ and in case any difference arise among them,  
 “ that they refer it to the abbess, and abide  
 “ by her judgment.

“ 8. If any theft be committed, let the ab-  
 “ bess amicably procure restitution to be made  
 “ of such things as are stolen. And if the  
 “ guilty person should refuse to do it, let her  
 “ be lashed by the beadle in private ; and if  
 “ she fall a second time into the same fault,  
 “ let her be whipped through the city by the  
 “ common hangman.

“ 9. LET the abbess admit no Jews into  
 “ the brothel ; and, if any one should find  
 “ means through stealth to gain admittance,  
 “ let him be imprisoned for his offence, and  
 “ whipped publicly through the streets of the  
 “ city.”

THERE were also at this time public stews  
 allowed in the principal cities of Italy, and  
 even at Rome itself, under the walls of the  
 pope's palace : France also was furnished with  
 them, particularly in Aquitaine : that at Thou-  
 louse was endowed with several privileges by  
 Charles VI. and VII. and in the reign of queen  
 Elizabeth we find rules and ordinances were  
 issued, bearing date in the year 1430, for the  
 regulation of stews in London and the borough  
 of Southwark, one of the articles whereof runs  
 thus : *Of those who keep women having a wicked*  
*infirmity, ordering under a severe penalty, that*

*no stew-holder keep women wythin his hous that bath any sicknesse of brenning (burning).*

BUT justice must be done to queen Jane of Sicily, in owning that her statute seems to have been the best calculated for promoting the order and tranquillity of brothels : indeed historians insinuate that she was naturally of a very lascivious disposition, and by turning her mind this way, she was mistress of the subject, and therefore capable of displaying her genius upon it. As soon as the venereal disorder began to make such ravages as it did, when, first introduced into Europe, these brothels also began to decline, as the expence attending the cure of the whores, infected with this disease, frequently exceeded the profits arising from their prostitution : so that the lady abbeesses at length ~~lost~~ <sup>gave up their charge,</sup> and became virtuous matrons by necessity.

THIS alone should be a sufficient proof that the venereal disorder was unknown in Europe before the period I have mentioned ; but the celebrated Astruc's observations upon queen Jane's statutes will set this matter in a still clearer light.

HE says that those who are of opinion that this disorder then existed “ should prove that  
 “ there were then no other disorders, besides  
 “ what are now called venereal, that could  
 “ possibly be contracted by harlots from their  
 “ prostitution, or by them be communicated  
 “ to such persons as had to do with them.  
 “ For

“ For otherwise it is more rational to inter-  
 “ pret this article of such diseases as were  
 “ then commonly to be met with, than to  
 “ argue from thence against the express testi-  
 “ mony of all authors, that the venereal  
 “ disease was at that time as well known, as  
 “ it is at present.

“ THE argument, therefore, they draw  
 “ from hence is inconclusive, unless they can  
 “ first prove, that this fourth article cannot be  
 “ understood of any other diseases, than such  
 “ as are now called venereal (which I am sure  
 “ is not to be done,) and must fall to the  
 “ ground, if it once can be proved that there  
 “ were other diseases, besides the present ve-  
 “ nereal disorders, which were then abso-  
 “ lutely unknown, arising from a promiscu-  
 “ ous and immoderate use of venery, and be-  
 “ ing once contracted, were capable of being  
 “ communicated to such as conversed with  
 “ them, of which consequently this article  
 “ ought to be understood.

“ FOR, 1st. from the frequency of coition,  
 “ women are subject to fissures of the puden-  
 “ dum, and superficial exulcerations of the  
 “ vagina; nor in a promiscuous and immode-  
 “ rate use of venery can the female organs  
 “ avoid being considerably hurt by the vehe-  
 “ ment and repeated action of the male, espe-  
 “ cially in such women, as from their youth,  
 “ and the delicacy of their frame, have their  
 “ solid parts of weaker and more lax contex-  
 “ ture; or such as have not the womb firmly

“ fixed in its proper seat, but naturally disposed  
 “ to bear down into the vagina ; or have to  
 “ do with very large men, or whose semen is  
 “ acrid ; or such as are not careful to cleanse  
 “ and wash away the seed of different persons  
 “ collected, but suffer it to lie and corrupt,  
 “ &c. And as common wenches are most  
 “ exposed to these dangers, it is plain they  
 “ must formerly have most frequently con-  
 “ tracted these disorders ; and these when  
 “ once contracted must have grown worse  
 “ and worse, either from the repetition of the  
 “ same cause, or the negligence natural to  
 “ whores ; and at length have been com-  
 “ municated to such as had to do with them,  
 “ in like manner as the *itch*, *herpes*, &c. are  
 “ propagated by infection ; whence arose in  
 “ men inflammations of the *penis*, miliary  
 “ eruptions, pustules, ulcers upon the surface  
 “ of the glans, and round the prepuce. And,

“ 2dly. LEWD women, if frequently lain  
 “ with, in case of any native imbecility in  
 “ the womb, are liable to a copious flux of a  
 “ foul, sharp, foetid matter, to ulcers in the  
 “ womb ; and sometimes (which is still worse)  
 “ to a cancer. For, from too frequent coi-  
 “ tion, there must arise irregular stagnations  
 “ both of the blood and lymph ; by which  
 “ means either the uterine glands being too  
 “ much relaxed, the fluor albus follows ; or  
 “ the fibres being lacerated, an ulcer is formed ;  
 “ or the lymph being obstructed, a scirrhus is  
 “ produced, which often degenerates into a  
 “ cancer. To these disorders, therefore,  
 “ common

“ common women must ever have been ex-  
 “ posed ; and from hence through the acri-  
 “ mony of the corrupt humour oozing from  
 “ the womb, they must have given divers  
 “ distempers to such persons as lay with them ;  
 “ and in particular have caused inflammations  
 “ of the *glands*, prepuce, and yard, miliary  
 “ eruptions, pustules, ulcers, &c. such as  
 “ have been described by the authors, who  
 “ lived before the first breaking out of the  
 “ venereal disease.

“ 3dly. It appears that such women as had  
 “ to do with lepers were for the most part  
 “ affected with an erysipelatous inflammation  
 “ of the vagina and urethra, with a violent  
 “ troublesome *dysuria*, then called by the  
 “ name of *burning* ; and that the men who  
 “ lay with persons thus infected, or even with  
 “ sound women, who had not washed them-  
 “ selves since they had lain with a leper, for  
 “ the most part suffered the same disorder,  
 “ contracted as it were by infection. There  
 “ was, therefore, a distemper so long as the  
 “ leprosy subsisted, which might be con-  
 “ tracted by whores from coition, and be  
 “ communicated by them to such as had ve-  
 “ nereal intercourse with them ; which for-  
 “ merly, indeed, could not but frequently  
 “ occur ; but upon the disappearing of the  
 “ leprosy, likewise disappeared, as it was in no  
 “ respect the same as the venereal gonorrhœa.”

HAVING thus settled the origin of this dis-  
 order, and its first appearance in Europe, I  
 “ shall

shall now consider the manner in which it is contracted, its nature, symptoms, and cure.

THIS disorder is communicated either by generation, or infection : by generation, when transmitted by the parents to the child, whilst the body of the embryo is formed ; by infection in the act of coition between an injured and a sound person. The foetus may also be infected after being formed, if the mother contract the disease during her pregnancy. But this disorder is never communicated by contagious air ; and though some physicians have imagined it may be caught by interventive subjects, this opinion is now exploded. It is thought, however, that the venereal disease may be contracted by a sound man lying with a sound woman, in case she has lately performed the act of coition with a man infected, and has not washed the inside of her parts, since this first connexion ; as the remains of the putrid *semen* adhering to the *vagina*, may infect the glans of the *penis*.

IT may be communicated by the breasts of a distempered nurse to a sound child ; as the infected milk must soon corrupt the tender body of the child ; and, on the contrary, a diseased child sucking the breast of a sound nurse, may communicate by the saliva this disorder to the nurse.

IT may be communicated by lascivious kissing the mouth, when either party is affected with any venereal ulcers on the inside of the mouth.

LYING

LYING in the same bed with an infected person, without coition, may communicate it, when either party hath any cutaneous disorder arising from the venereal disease ; upon the principal of exhalation and inhalation.

It may also be contracted by handling the infected parts ; as by examining venereal ulcers with a finger, or performing the midwife's office towards an infected woman, especially if the surgeon's finger, or the midwife's hands, have any wound or fissure, by which the poison may be more easily imbibed.

THE two first of these ways of receiving the contagion, are so well confirmed, by many and positive experiments, that they cannot be doubted ; but the three latter, though highly probably, and supported by authorities, may, perhaps, still be questioned.

THE venereal poison consists of certain seeds of morbid matter, which being introduced into a sound body, in the smallest quantity, and by sensible passages, and gradually increasing in size, form, and force, at length corrupt the whole mass of humours. This poison creates an inflammation upon the parts which it affects. In a gonorrhœa the urethra, the prostata, and the visiculæ seminales, in men, are inflamed ; and in women, the vagina, the pudendum, the prostata, and the glandulæ Cowperianæ. Chancres in men are occasioned by an inflammation of the glans, the frænum, and the præpuce ; and in women  
in

in the pterygia, the carunculæ myrtiformes, and other parts of the pudendum. In the case of a bubo, the inguinal glands are inflamed, and in that of a node the periosteum. In a word, whatever part of the body is seized with the *virus* becomes inflamed; this poison being so disposed, that it condenses and crisps the membranous stamina of the parts it penetrates, whereby the extremities of the vessels interspersed are constricted, and the blood is forced from its usual course into the contiguous lymphatic vessels, and causes an inflammation. When this poison is not timely extirpated, it by degrees corrodes, exulcerates, and preys upon the parts it has inflamed; and thence arise indurations, schirrhous, and callos humours.

THE symptoms of a gonorrhœa, (an ulcer) which is the most customary stage of the venereal disorder, contracted by coition, generally appear, in four, eight, or twelve days, after the infection is caught; when a small quantity of an oily, lymphatic, viscid serum oozes through the urethra, producing a pleasant sensation, and gluing up the orifice of the passage. The extremity of the urethra becomes red and hot, and opens wider than common. At first the parts of generation have an uncommon titulation, at the time of making water more particularly, which daily approaches nearer to pain. As the disorder increases, a tension, rigidity, and induration of the penis takes place, with a greater discharge of a seminal humour, the difficulty of urine in-

increasing, with great sharpness like the pricking of pins.—The penis sometimes becomes distorted and bent, especially in the time of erection, which is called a chordee, and the humour flowing is of different colours, but generally a yellow, tinged with green, and sometimes purulent: in others it is ash-coloured, resembling matter streaked with blood.

IN females, a few days after having received the infection, their parts are unusually moist, and an itching heat every day comes nearer to pain: when their complaints are arrived at their height, the insertion of the penis is scarcely to be supported. They have also a difficulty and scalding in making water; but not so much as the men: but the oozing matter is very near the same in both.

## RECEIPTS for a GONORRHÆA.

*R. Lignorum guaiaci & sassafras ana ʒij.*

*Radic. chinæ & sarsaparilla ana ʒijβ.*

*Antimonii crudi crassiusculè triti & nodulo inclusi ʒiβ.*

*Ligna & radices incidantur, & infunduntur omnia tepide per noctem in aquæ fontana ℥viii. deinde bulliant moderato ignæ ad tertiæ partis consumptionem, addendo finem coctionis.*

*Follicul. fennæ ʒβ.*

*Radicis liquoritiæ rosæ ʒi.*

*Colatura servetur ad usum ter in die usurpanda ad ʒviii. mane jejuno ventriculo, horâ quintâ vel sexta pomeridiana, & ante decubitum.*

ANOTHER

ANOTHER, which, it is said, will cure a gonorrhæa, in three days, taken as an injection.

*R. Aquæ plantagin ʒviii, quibus dissolve draconis mitigati, hoc est mercurii sublimati, dulcis, in alkool redacti ʒij.*

*Argentur simul, & liquoris illius turbidi & tepidi ʒi, siphore eburneo, in urethram injiciatur ter in die.*

THE first, I should, however, rather recommend, as these speedy cures are seldom effectual.

A BUBO is a swelling or tumour in the groin, which may be either brought to a head or dispersed. In the first case a surgical operation must be performed; in the latter the patient must be confined to his chamber during the whole time of his cure, to avoid the danger of being exposed to the air.

CHANCRES are ulcers arising from impure venery, and are generally situated in men upon the internal surface of the prepuce, or the back or sides of the glands; most frequently upon the corona or frænum of the glands; sometimes too upon the extremity of the duct of the urethra. In women frequently upon the internal surface of the labia pudendi; often upon the clitoris, the root of the clitoris, or on the prepuce, with which the clitoris is covered, upon the nymphæ, carunculæ myrtiformes, and vagina; and sometimes upon the extremity of the urethra.

WHEN the prepuce is swelled, it sometimes so strictly embraces the glans, that it can by no means be drawn back ; in this state it is called by the Greek name phimosi, that is to say a ligature ; but sometimes it is so corrugated, and tightened behind the corona glands, that it cannot by any art be brought forwards ; and this state of it, which is contrary to the former, is called paraphimosis ; that is to say, a ligature tied round. This state of the penis is generally accompanied with watery bladders upon the margin of the surface, which are called crystallines.

THESE are the most customary symptoms of the first stages of the venereal disorder. I have, however, ventured to give receipts only for a gonorrhœa, unaccompanied with any of these latter symptoms, as where a surgeon's assistance is absolutely necessary ; or where the intricacy of the case may baffle the most skilful of the faculty, it would be ridiculous to point out such theoretical cures, as may not entirely suit one patient in ten. For the same reason, I have no occasion to enter upon the confirmed pox, as it is most usually preceded by some or all of these symptoms.

A PREVENTATIVE remedy would be of more real service to the world, and especially the rising generation, than volumes written upon the subject after the disorder is imbibed. To this end I shall communicate an easy portable application, which has never been known to fail ; and which it is to be hoped will annihilate

late the use of those filthy bladders, commonly called machines.

BEFORE coition rub the nut of the penis, glans, and inside of the prepuce with common mercurial unguent ; remain no longer in the act of enjoyment than you have absolute occasion for ; but upon retiring, wash your penis well with warm water, or your own, if you can conveniently make it, and apply the mercurial unguent as before.

THIS recipe was used last war in Germany by a skilful surgeon, who recommended it to the company he had the care of ; and during the whole campaign, not one of the men received any infection, notwithstanding their corps were very famous for the number of women belonging to them.

IN common gonorrhæas, it may with certainty be depended upon ; in confirmed or worse cases it is not recommended. What has been said upon the nature, and manner of communicating this disorder, should also be considered ; as it appears that it may be imbibed without copulation.

*F I N I S.*







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